



November 21, 2011

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## CUPE Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the members of CUPE's Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee (UCBC) met to provide an update on the status of collective bargaining between CUPE's ten (10) locals and the employers at UBC, SFU, UVic, UNBC, RRU and TRU. At this meeting, representatives from all the locals reaffirmed their commitment to an action plan developed in October that will help move bargaining forward and address issues like improvements to job security, contracting out, cost of living, wages, and provincial benefits, just to name a few.

We are committed to working together to achieve collective agreements that meet the needs of our diverse memberships and address the challenges we all face. Working collectively as a sector, we will be able to put coordinated pressure on our employers and be a strong, unified presence across the province. This will help each local achieve specific gains in this round of bargaining.

As UCBC moves forward with this strategy, key aspects are already in motion.

- All of the locals are working to secure bargaining dates in November and December.
- UCBC continues to reach out to government through local discussions and beyond.
- UCBC has submitted a request to CUPE National in Ottawa to help fund a new communications and advertising strategy as part of the ongoing Universities Work campaign.

Since UCBC's last update in October, there were also important developments that came out of CUPE's National Convention in Vancouver that will help organize and support CUPE's post-secondary education sector across the country. First, CUPE's 2011-2013 strategic directions document was passed and includes a plan to build bargaining strength by hosting a major national bargaining conference in the fall of 2012 or early 2013. This national bargaining conference will lay the groundwork for the long-term implementation of a bargaining approach to achieve our goals with new tools and revitalized strategies.

Delegates also passed two (2) resolutions that mark a significant gain for our sector and will help raise the profile of our issues and devote more resources to strategies, action plans, and solutions.



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**Resolution 199** (brought forward by Local 3909 in Manitoba) states that CUPE National will:

1. Organize all academic and non-academic workers in Canada's post-secondary education sector; and
2. Organize all student and non-student workers in Canada's post-secondary education sector; and
3. Produce materials promoting unionization specifically for the post-secondary education sector.

Delegates also passed **Resolution 50** from CUPE BC that university and college locals in our province had worked hard to achieve. The resolution states that CUPE National will:

1. Establish a national post-secondary sector task force;
2. Provide more support to the post-secondary sector through bi-annual sector conferences/meetings and ongoing dedicated research and communications support; and
3. Appoint a staff representative as a national coordinator dedicated to the post-secondary sector to do the following:
  - Develop CUPE National's plan of action for open, accessible, public and affordable post-secondary institutions;
  - Develop a strategy to ensure CUPE's plan is a priority at the federal level;
  - Develop a strategy for coordinated bargaining at the National level;
  - Coordinate inter-provincial and national actions around post-secondary issues that impact CUPE members; and
  - Develop coalitions with other education sector organizations to ensure CUPE's interests are at the forefront of any discussion of post-secondary education.

The members of the Universities Coordinated Bargaining Committee are proud of the achievements our sector made at CUPE's National Convention and will continue to work together to achieve collective agreements across the sector that meet the needs of all CUPE members in BC's universities.

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