

CUPE
EDUCATION
WORKERS

THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION



OSBCU CONVENTION REPORT 2019

Niagara Falls, Ontario
January 27 – February 2

Message from OSBCU President Laura Walton

Thanks to all the delegates who attended OSBCU's 2019 convention in Niagara Falls. It was an amazing week in which we learned, shared and prepared to build our power to protect our system of public education.

It's been quite a year – and it's not over yet. We face many unknowns, but we do know that we are dealing with a provincial government that promotes private over public, austerity over adequate funding, and policies that punish workers and the people we serve, all while proclaiming it's doing it "for the people."

Our success depends on your support and doing the work on the ground at the local level. We have been working with local leaders and staff to ensure that our locals are ready to bargain and that our members are also ready to mobilize in our workplaces and communities. We have launched training opportunities throughout the province, we have built alliances, and launched a new website that will be the public face of OSBCU to our members and the communities we serve.

I encourage members to engage, ask questions, and seek out new ideas. We are the largest bargaining group in all of CUPE; we will lead the way for other public sector workers. We are ready. We are the Power of Public Education.





CUPE Ontario Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick: “We will bring the force of the whole labour movement” to assist education workers, as she promised support for education workers, the first CUPE sector to bargain under the Ford government.

CUPE Assistant Regional Director Kathy Johnson (now retired): “We have to make members care in the face of the chaos that Ford is creating; build your alliances with parents’ groups, ratepayers, within and outside CUPE.”



Tina Garnett, Chair, Pink Triangle Committee, CUPE Ontario: “You have to identify the barriers before you can take them down”

CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn invoked the spirit of the Winnipeg General Strike and urged members to prepare to fight plans for privatization.



OSBCU President Laura Walton: Doug Ford is “playing with fire with hints about cancelling full-day kindergarten; the Ford government shows yet again that it isn’t interested in sticking up for the little guy.”



Bryan Dafoe on the high number of WSIB claims denied: “They’re saving money off the backs of injured workers.”



Vicky Evans delivers her Secretary-Treasurer’s report to OSBCU delegates.



Liz Harrison: “We have to be prepared to say no; we have to protect the class sizes and full-day kindergarten.”

OSBCU members in action



Getting into the rhythm

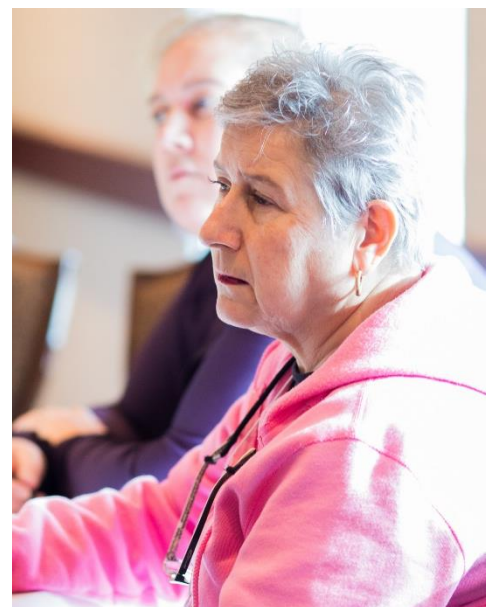
The OSBCU convention saw the launch of the OSBCU's drum corps, led by OSBCU Area VP Jason Macfarlane and CUPE retiree Helen Manning.



Drumming up some community action

OSBCU Area VP Jason Macfarlane leads OSBCU drummers in a community action at the Falls.

Workshops





In studio

OSBCU
Francophone
mobilizer Christine
Couture prepares
for a recording of
her video
testimonial about
what it means to be
CUPE.



OMERS fightback

Christine Couture and
Wynne Hartviksen
share with delegates
how they helped to
win the fight against a
rollback of benefits for
members of the
OMERS pension plan.

50-50 draw



Enthusiasm and persistence from ticket sellers for the 50-50 draw...



... resulted in a big win for CUPE 1022's Jo-Anne White



... and Niagara Nutrition Partners, recipient of OSBCU convention fundraising efforts.



Social worker Gary Direnfeld addresses OSBCU convention for its closing address: “We have bullies in high political office, they practise exclusion, they silence others.... We don’t want your voices squelched, we want your voices elevated... You are personally the safety net for all Ontarians, rich and poor – the rich just don’t know it.”

