

# Island Views

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September 26/15

November 28/15

## HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2015

500 CUPE members from across the country were in Winnipeg February 5-8<sup>th</sup> for CUPE's second, National Human Rights Conference. The conference highlighted the role unions have in creating safe workplaces devoid of racism and discrimination.



Paul Moist, CUPE National President, opened the conference greeting members and reminding us that, "defending human rights is at the very core of what unions do every day". Paul was followed by guest speaker NDP MP Romeo Saganash pictured above with Paul Moist and Charles Fleury.



**Panel member Ausma Malik**

For me the word courage stood out whether it was spoken, implied during a speech or realized during debate. For every major human right, someone or a collective of people, had to have the courage to do so; where did they find that courage? We all have it, some more than others.

Some may never know, while others will find courage they never thought they possessed. The Lion always had the courage; it took Oz to show him it was there all along. As Unionists, we are and will be put to the test to find courage and earn respect.



**Panel Discussion**

Workshops I took were: Precarious Work, Duty to Accommodate and Public Pension Plans. Our plenary sessions covered: Labour and the pursuit of human rights, CUPE's membership survey, in context, (of note here is that members identified their locals newsletter as the main source of information,) Human Rights in Canada, Our History, Our Future, Winning Equality through Political Action and Engaging Members and the Community.

We learned through panel discussion and workshops, that we have the power to bring change and without that we cannot move forward. We also visited the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, a very eye opening experience. The knowledge and experience gained will be used in my role as a trade unionist.

With courage and in solidarity,  
Keith Todd



In the know about  
VIDC

### Agenda Items /Issues/Guest Speakers

Please submit agenda items or other pressing matters, and suggestions for guest speakers, in advance to the President, Amber Leonard. chiefshopsteward459@gmail.com or 250-642-1227.

### Keep Our Meetings Scent Free

For the comfort of your fellow delegates who may be sensitive to chemicals found in scents, perfumes and aftershaves, please refrain from wearing heavy scents at the Council meeting. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Delegates Lunch

An informal lunch will be served in the meeting room, at the meeting hotel at 12:15pm, on the day of the General Meeting. Cost is \$10.00 per person payable to the Sgt.-at-Arms at the meeting. Lunch for 30 will be arranged and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let Craig or Ali know of any dietary allergies.

### Island Views

Submissions (maximum 500 words) are invited for the forthcoming editions.

## A Word from the VIDC VICE - President

### TILE THE DOORS!

You've heard it at District Council. You've heard it at Conventions. But have you ever stopped to think about the origin of the saying, "Tile the Doors"?

In CUPE they are called Sergeant at Arms, but the origin of this term is most likely related to the Freemasons.

An officer of a Symbolic Lodge, whose duty is to guard the door of the Lodge, and to permit no one to pass in who is not duly qualified, and who has not the permission of the Master. A necessary qualification of a Tiler is, therefore, that he should be a Master Mason. Although the Lodge may be opened in an inferior Degree, no one who has not advanced to the Third Degree can legally discharge the functions of Tiler.

As the Tiler is always compensated for his services, he is considered, in some sense, as the servant of the Lodge. It is, therefore, his duty to prepare the Lodge for its meetings, to arrange the furniture in its proper place, and to make all other arrangements for the convenience of the Lodge. The Tiler need

not be a member of the Lodge which he tiles; and in fact, in large cities, one Brother very often performs the duties of Tiler of several Lodges.

This is a very important office, and, like that of the Master and Wardens, owes its existence, not to any conventional regulations, but to the very landmarks of the order; for, from the peculiar nature of our Institution, it is evident that there never could have been a meeting of Freemasons for Masonic purposes, unless a Tiler had been present to guard the Lodge from intrusion.

The title is derived from the Operative Art; for as in Operative Masonry the Tiler, when the edifice is erected, finishes and covers it with the roof of tiles, so in Speculative Masonry, when the Lodge is duly organized, the Tiler closes the door and covers the sacred precincts from all intrusion.

**- Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**

### VIDC GIVES BACK

Trina Edwards, case manager at the Port Alberni Shelter receives a slow cooker, frying pan, monetary donation as well as 4 cases of protein for people - salmon from Laura Johnston - President of Local 727 and executive at large member at Vancouver Island District Council.



Barb Miller, from the food bank in Ucluelet is pleased to receive 2 cases of salmon from Laura Johnston President of Local 727. The salmon was on behalf of the Vancouver Island District Council.

## CUPE BC 52 Annual Convention Highlights



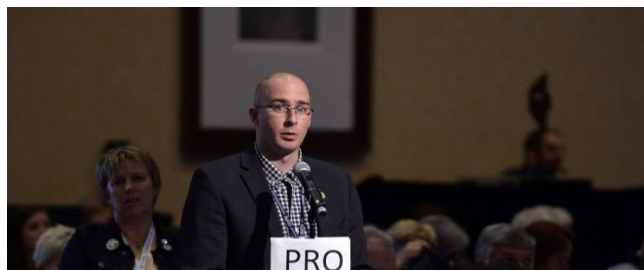
PROUD



STRONG



UNITED



#cupebc15 was the hashtag of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention held in Vancouver, BC, April 29 – May 2, 2015 at the Westin Bayshore.

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> saw the convention open with 502 delegates present to vote for the President, Treasurer, 2 GVPs, and 1 Trustee.

### **Elected GVPs:**

Trevor Davies  
John Hall  
Cindy McQueen  
Karen Ranellata

A huge congratulation to the endorsed candidates from Vancouver Island District Council elected in the Regional caucus:

### **Elected RVPs:**

Michelle Waite  
Amber Leonard  
Alison Pringle – Alternate

**Mark Hancock** opened sharing his personal struggle with his health all the while trying to keep things in perspective back at the office. He thanked his entire staff for doing what it took to get the job done in his absence. Mark is ready to see the NDP win in the next federal election.

**Paul Faoro** reported on a busy year for CUPE BC with the finances in solid shape. CUPE BC continues to improve in the area of technology moving to new systems, and in supporting locals and members.

**Stephen Lewis** brought the crowd to their feet on more than one occasion, stirring emotions and reminding us of the horror still going on in other parts of the world and how with the assistance CUPE and others alike, change can happen.

**John Horgan** was welcomed through the wave of orange scarves that filled the auditorium. He celebrated one year as being the Leader of the BC NDP, and once again gave a powerful and sometimes lighthearted, look into the political ring.

Paul Moist, Libby Davies, Glen Hansman, Charles Fleury, Irene Langzinger, Reyna Isabel Tejada Maleo also gave presentations to delegates at convention.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVENTION 2015



**CREDENTIALS**

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**BROTHER PAUL MOIST**



**STEPHEN LEWIS & SISTER LAURA JOHNSTON**



**LAST PHOTO OF COMMUNICATION & TECH COMMITTEE**



**BROTHER DAN MACBETH**



**LAST TIME SPEAKER**



**ALT. RVP SISTER PRINGLE**



**FUN AT THE PHOTO BOOTH!**

