

## June's General Membership Meeting: Bylaw and Election Results

Thanks to all those who came out to participate in the GMM on June 23rd. Nominations and voting took place for the positions of President and Recording Secretary, as well as voting on changes to the Local bylaws put forward by the Executive which included modifications to Executive/Steward honorarium rules and the Shop Steward nomination process, the addition of a unit representative for 89 Chestnut, and other small changes.

In the elections, Allan James was acclaimed for the position of President, and Luke Daccord was acclaimed for the position of Recording Secretary. All of the bylaw amendments put forward by the Executive also passed.

CUPE bylaw procedures require all amendments to be approved by CUPE National before going into effect. As of yet, we are still awaiting this approval from the National office. Once this approval is received and the bylaws officially come into effect they will be accessible from the Local's website, [3261.cupe.ca](http://3261.cupe.ca).

## York's CUPE 3903 Legislated Back to Work



Above: CUPE 3261 President Allan James (center) with CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn (right) and Chair of the University Workers Coordinating Committee, Janice Folk-Dawson (left) at a CUPE 3902 Rally in July before the passing of the legislation.

CUPE 3903's legal strike at York University officially ended after Doug Ford's majority government passed "back-to-work" legislation on July 25. The 21-week strike began after significant differences on wage increases and academic funding between the two sides. The main issues revolved around restoring adequate funding to support graduate student research, raising the number of conversions of contract faculty to full-time tenured positions, and establishing a Sexual Violence Survivor Support Fund.

The administration prolonged the strike by continually refusing to meet with the CUPE 3903 bargaining committee. By waiting out the strike until the election, York University effectively cancelled negotiations by relying on Ford's back-to-work legislation. Ford's move sets a dangerous precedent for university and public sector workers. By simply passing legislation, the government can unilaterally eliminate any leverage a union holds against its employer. This is especially dangerous under a government that vows to reduce public sector spending, inevitably diminishing the ability for workers to negotiate and strike for better wages and benefits.

## CUPE Fall School

Every year, CUPE Ontario hosts the Fall School, where members all over Ontario have the opportunity to take courses and workshops on union-related issues ranging from health and safety, to labour law, to stewarding and bargaining. Fall School this year will be taking place from November 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in Toronto -- check out [cupe.on.ca/event/fall-school-2018](http://cupe.on.ca/event/fall-school-2018) to see the courses offered. Any member interested in attending is encouraged to contact the Local by October 20<sup>th</sup> for registration. The entire cost will be covered by the Local, along with a modest "per-diem" to cover travel and food expenses. If the course conflicts with your work schedule, the union may also be able to book you off.

## General Meeting

Attention Members! Our next General Membership Meeting on the St. George campus will be held on **Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> in Sidney Smith Rm. 1073 from 10AM to 12PM.** We urge any members who can make the time to please attend and get involved. As always, the union will provide coffee and donuts, and also be having a gift card giveaway for those attending!



## Events

### General Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 20, 2018  
Sidney Smith Rm. 1073  
10:00AM - 12:00PM

### CUPE Ontario Fall School

November 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

**Thank you** to everyone who came out to our summer BBQ's which happened over the last three months across all our campuses! We hope you had fun, and look forward to seeing all three campuses together at our Christmas party.

Check out [3261.cupe.ca](http://3261.cupe.ca) to stay up to date on events.

## Protecting the \$15 minimum wage

### Better than buck-a-beer!

Last year, amidst overwhelming pressure, the previous Liberal government overhauled the Employment Standards Act (ESA), introducing progressive measures like the Equal Pay for Equal Work provision, paid emergency days, vacation days, and more. Most importantly, the government passed a \$14 minimum wage, with a planned increase to \$15 on January 1st, 2019.

However, during his campaign, Premier Doug Ford played up to the business lobby by promising to scrap the increase, leaving it at \$14 and instead offering a tax cut that would in fact leave workers with considerably less money in their pockets when compared to a \$1 raise. A majority of Ontarians support a \$15 minimum wage, and 60% of voters did not vote to cancel the increase. As union members, it is important we continue to support the fight for \$15 and fairness across every work place. Visit [15andfairness.org](http://15andfairness.org) for more details on how to help.



## Lockout at the CNE: Solidarity with IATSE Local 58

### Union workers locked out for entirety of CNE

IATSE 58 represents stagehands and technical workers at Exhibition Place and many other venues across Toronto. During recent negotiations for a new collective agreement, the union refused to back down from their employer's demands that they allow outside workers into their workplaces to perform work that has in the past been performed by IATSE 58 members. Instead of continuing negotiations, or going into binding arbitration, Exhibition Place decided to lock out its workers. The employer has since been allowing corporations hosting events to hire their own outside labour to set up their venues.

The local picketed the annual Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), which saw lower-paid, and poorly trained scab labour from out-of-province brought in to run the events, and unions across the GTA called for the public to boycott the event to show their support. In fact, the CNE reportedly lost millions of dollars in revenue as a result of the picket, and was even forced to eliminate entry fees in its last week in an attempt to encourage more visitors. Also, for the first time in decades, the annual Labour Day Parade skipped the CNE at the end of the march as a show of solidarity.

The local remains locked out, but is continuing to stand up for worker's rights and decent wages. We urge everyone to continue supporting our friends out on the picket line.

**Did you know** CUPE 3261 members can save up to 40% on auto insurance with Johnson Insurance using our group code "U4"? Try it out!

## Rally for OW, ODSP, and the Basic Income Pilot

### September 24 at Yonge-Dundas Square

In recent weeks, Doug Ford's government announced the cancellation of planned increases to transfer payments for the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), and a total cancellation of the Basic Income Pilot happening in Hamilton and Thunder Bay. Under the previous government, OW and ODSP payments were to increase by 3% annually, a small but significant boost to the poorest Ontarians who rely on the assistance to meet their basic needs. Instead, the

increase has been reduced to a meager 1.5% — a rate lower than that of inflation. This effectively amounts to a cut in social assistance payments, meaning the poorest Ontarians will be worse off than before.

A rally opposing Doug Ford's cuts will be held on Monday, September 24th starting at 10AM at Yonge-Dundas Square in downtown Toronto. This will be followed by a march to Queen's Park. We encourage everyone to come out to the rally to tell Doug Ford that his attack on the poorest and most vulnerable is NOT welcome here.

- Have you seen our new website yet? Visit [3261.cupe.ca](http://3261.cupe.ca) for updates on news and events, content like seniority lists, collective agreements, and newsletters, as well as details on how to get in touch with the Union, and more.
- If you have any suggestions regarding the Union newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact David Vieira at [dvieira.cupe3261@hotmail.com](mailto:dvieira.cupe3261@hotmail.com).