

This bulletin is published daily by
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on the convention floor each morning.



Delegates were keen to debate strategic directions.

Women on the front line

Women are on the front line every day, but they still face major barriers to political participation in CUPE, agreed a panel of community, political and union activists. Most delegates speaking to the "Strategic Directions" policy paper yesterday concurred.

The panel included NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis, community activist Punam Khosla, Canadian Union of Postal Workers president Deborah Bourque and Johanne Deschamps of the Quebec Federation of Labour.

Although more than 60 per cent of CUPE members are women, there are only five women out of 23 members on the National Executive Board.

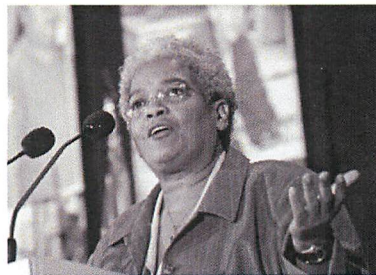
Unions build common good: Murray

A weakened public infrastructure is like a house with termites, Dr. Linda Rae Murray told delegates. It may look good on the outside, but inside, everything is crumbling.

That's why unions are so important, the health and safety expert said. Together we have the power to hold government accountable for the common good.

Without unions people don't learn to band together for change, Murray said. Yet only 30 per cent of Canadian workers are unionized.

"Our job is to organize the other 70 per cent," she said, "because no major progress has occurred without the active involvement of the trade union movement."



Organizing to organize

CUPE must put additional resources into organizing more workers – especially women, delegates said in the opening debate on the "Strategic Directions" policy paper.

Over the next two years, unorganized workers need the power of our union behind them to improve their wages and working conditions, they said.

The draft document calls for regional and sectoral organizing committees to carry out demographic and political analyses that will help them develop organizing plans.

Health and safety award winner



Don Postar, a Kawartha Lakes, Ont., school board worker (CUPE 5555), received CUPE's sixth national health and safety award. Postar shared the honour with the other seven nominees.

Resolutions

Adopted yesterday:

- ER301: Support for CUPE 4502, Global Quebec
- R24: Defend Rand Formula
- R26: Campaign against restrictions on free collective bargaining
- R237: Contracting in
- C40: French version of trial procedure
- C30: Filling vacancy for diversity vice-president
- C31: Removal of solidarity levy

Correction

Not all Nova Scotia school board locals are involved in the province-wide bargaining noted in Paul Moist's speech yesterday.

Today

Action Caucus, 12 p.m.
Communities Day Rally 12 p.m.
Global Justice Forum, 8 p.m.