

NEWSBULLETIN

Rally at Queensway-Carleton | History of CUPE | Events Coming Up

Coming Up

Sept. 9: 9 a.m. OCHU all committees meeting, via zoom

Sept. 10: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Rally against job cuts at the Elisabeth-Bruyere hospital in Ottawa

Sept. 10: 7 pm PSW electronic town hall meeting

Sept. 14-18: Presidents' Training session, Picton

Sept. 22: Noon rally at the Ministry of Health in Toronto to push for PSWs to have the rights given to every other regulated profession in the province

Sept. 28 - Oct. 7: 15 city release of new CCPA study on privatized surgeries

Go to ochu.on.ca for details



CUPE 2875 President Hilder Langwa at rally against job cuts at the Queensway-Carleton Hospital Aug. 19

Elisabeth-Bruyere protest September 10, Ottawa

CUPE local 4540 will hold a protest outside the Elisabeth-Bruyere on September 10 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.) to protest the loss of 60 jobs at the hospital and to demand adequate funding.

CUPE local 4540 has mounted a spirited campaign against the cuts. This is their second rally and there is a lawn sign and advertising campaign.

Please attend this protest, if you can.



*OCHU VP Sue Pinel and CUPE
Researcher Doug Allan in
Ottawa Aug. 14*

New Report Exposes Provincial Underfunding

OCHU-CUPE took a new report on hospital underfunding to 15 cities in August, part of a campaign to pressure the Ford government to fund health care.

In 2026 hospitals will receive an average of 3.3% funding increases, but their costs will go up by over 6% a year- leading to ongoing staff and service cuts.

Many hospitals are in deficit and borrowing to make payroll.

So far, 1,430 CUPE members have seen their jobs eliminated, along with 1,700 RNs.

We are pushing for hospitals to be funded by 6% a year and for an additional \$5 billion to be added for new staff and beds.

CUPE was created on Sept 24, 1963

Public sector employees were among the last to form unions but there is a long history of the efforts of those that went before us. Letter carriers in the Post Office formed a union in 1891. In 1907 federal government workers formed "The Civil Service Association", which in 1966, became the "Public Service Alliance of Canada."

The "National Union of Public Service Employees" (NUPSE) was an early Canadian public-sector union. It originated in 1921, when the Canadian Electrical Trade Union was formed in Toronto. As it organized more members it expanded beyond municipal electrical workers and represented a wider range of public-service employees. It expanded from coast-to-coast and adopted the name NUPSE in 1952.

Hospital workers were forming unions as early as the 1930s. The "Trades and Labour Congress" (TLC) helped those organizing by chartering hospital workers into independent "Federal Unions." In 1953 those locals were transferred to a new 12,000-member organization that was being formed. This new structure was a welcome advancement. In 1954 it became the "National Union of Public Employees" (NUPE).

After discussions NUPSE and NUPE agreed to unite. Both held conventions in Winnipeg on September 23, 1963, voting to merge. The following day, they formed the "Canadian Union of Public Employees" (CUPE) becoming a major national union in Canada and the largest public sector union.

Stanley Little, the first CUPE President, spoke about the task facing the union. He told members that their responsibility was to challenge all public employees to take their rightful place in the community and share the responsibility by being an important part of Canadian labour. One of the important areas of development he believed was in hospitals "because this is a group whose wages are well below the rest of the community and who are badly in need of the strength and protection that a union organization can bring." In 1982 Ontario CUPE hospital locals came together forming OCHU.

Celebrate your labour and your union this Labour Day!