



NEW ADVOCATES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2026 – SHERATON GUILDFORD HOTEL

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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| 8:30am-9:00am | Registration |
| 9:00am-9:30am | Plenary and Opening |
| 9:30am-10:30am | Introduction to CUPE |
| 10:30am-10:45am | Coffee Break |
| 10:45am-12:15pm | Introduction to CUPE (continued) |
| 12:15pm-1:30pm | Lunch (Participants on their Own) |
| 1:30pm-3:00pm | Concurrent Session 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group A: Intro to Parliamentary Procedure / Knowing your Bylaws• Group B: Health and Safety in the Workplace• Group C: Roles in the Union |
| 3:00pm-3:15pm | Coffee Break |
| 3:15pm-4:45pm | Concurrent Session 2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group A: Roles in the Union• Group B: Intro to Parliamentary Procedure / Knowing your Bylaws• Group C: Health and Safety in the Workplace |
| 5:00pm-7:30pm | Social Event and Dinner (provided)
Central City Fun Park |

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00am-10:30am Concurrent Session 3

- Group A: Health and Safety in the Workplace
- Group B: Roles in the Union
- Group C: Intro to Parliamentary Procedure / Knowing your Bylaws

10:30am-10:45am Coffee Break

10:45am-12:00pm Winning Beyond the Bargaining Table: Why Political Action Matters

12:00pm-1:15pm Lunch (Participants on their Own)

1:15pm-2:00pm Panel Discussion: Finding your Path to Activism

2:00pm-2:30pm Judy Darcy: Keynote

2:30pm-2:45pm Coffee Break

2:45pm-3:30pm Next Steps: Putting your Learning into Action

3:30pm-3:45pm Closing

SESSION OVERVIEW

Introduction to CUPE

Welcome to CUPE! This session provides information about CUPE's history, structure governance, services, and affiliations with the larger labour movement. It draws the connections between members, local unions, District Councils, CUPE BC, and our National Union and how we use these connections to improve the lives of CUPE members and all working people.

Understanding your Union Meetings and Parliamentary Procedure

Have you ever sat through a union meeting and wondered what the heck is going on, why aren't people talking normally? This session is designed to help prepare you for involvement in your union by outlining how members can participate in the democratic decision-making at local meetings, and how bylaws establish the democratic structure of their local. Participants are encouraged to bring their local bylaws and collective agreements.

Introduction to Health and Safety

This session provides a quick overview of the world of health and safety and explores basic concepts such as the right to refuse unsafe work, the role of health and safety committees, mental health in the workplace, and workers' rights to participate in health and safety processes in our workplaces. We'll also discuss the union's important role in protecting and advancing workplace safety rights.

Roles in CUPE Locals: There is Something For Everyone!

There is something for everyone in CUPE! Whether you're interested in occupational health and safety, want to represent and defend your fellow members as a steward, improve your collective agreement at the bargaining table, make the union more fun and inclusive through social events, or help improve communication between the local executive and members in your workplace, there is a place in CUPE for your energy. This session covers the various ways that members can help build the strength of their union by bringing their energy and passions forward in their local.

Winning Beyond the Bargaining Table: Why Political Action Matters

Every day our union is advancing the rights and interests of CUPE members and working people in all kinds of ways. That work isn't just done at the bargaining table it's done in the halls of power, in the streets of our communities, and at the kitchen tables of our friends, families, and neighbours. This workshop will ask participants to explore the range of issues working people face, particularly those that cannot be bargained into collective agreements, and ask how those issues can be addressed at local, provincial, and federal levels.

Panel Discussion: Finding Your Path to Activism

This panel discussion brings together CUPE activists who have taken different paths to find their place in our movement. Whether it's being part of a local executive, moving on from your local into political roles, or moving from the membership into a staff role, there are many ways for members to move through our union to follow their passion. Hear from experienced activists as they share wisdom and insight with participants about getting more involved, and the benefits of greater activism in CUPE.

Keynote Speaker: Judy Darcy

Former CUPE National President Judy Darcy has spent decades fighting to advance equality, protect the rights of women, racialized people, and working people generally as a community activist, labour activist, and eventually as an MLA and provincial government minister. Judy will share stories about her time in the labour movement and how this experience prepared her for some of the most important battles of the last fifty years. Judy's frontline activism, commitment to the movement, and values-driven leadership are an example we can learn from and apply to the problems we face today.