

## Know Your President – Chris Mravinec

I've been a member of CUPE 998 for the last 17 of my 24 years at Manitoba Hydro. My career has given me the opportunity to work at many different locations in Hydro; from field work at generating, converting,



and transmission stations to engineering and quality control work in an office environment. These experiences as well as being a Steward for 15 years and serving a term as an Executive from 2009-2012 have shown me how important it is for us to work together and to understand each other's contributions. There are many facets to our work as CUPE members and all are important to Manitoba Hydro's continuing success.

The transition to President of our Local has kept me busier than ever during the last year and I remain confident even more positive changes will be made as the Executive continues to work and grow together.

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## The Livewire

This issue we will introduce our President, our committees, and committee chairs.

Our main focus is to keep our members up to date on the Local's activities and important information happening with CUPE today.

We will feature committee reports and our events calendar. We will also include Members Section where you the members can ask questions.

## Publication Schedule

The current publication schedule for The Livewire is as follows:

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

## CUPE 998 Events Calendar

### Manitoba CUPE Convention

Place: Brandon, Manitoba  
Date: March 16 - 19, 2014

### CALM Convention

Place: Montreal, Quebec  
Date: May 1 - 3, 2014

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## Welcome

CUPE 998 would like to welcome **Grant Konrad** as the Recording Secretary.

## Members Area

A message containing login instructions was sent to all Manitoba Hydro email addresses.

If you did not receive this message, are not currently at work but would like to access, or your login and password are not working, please contact **Michelle Balina** directly to help.

Please do not share your login with anyone and remember to close your browser after accessing the Members Area to prevent unauthorized access by others.

Our Members Area will have exclusive information for all CUPE 998 members, check back often for updates from our Negotiations Committee.

## Trustee Election Results

At the recent April Special General Membership Meetings, **Michael Wright** was elected as a Trustee for a 3 year term & **Helen Holgate** was elected as a Trustee for a 1 year term. They will be joining the current Trustee Mario Mance on the Trustees Committee. We would like to express our thanks to candidate Stephanie Diakiw for running in the Trustee election also.

Thank you to the candidates, voters, and members of the Nominating Committee: Chair/Chief Steward - Kelli Howell, Donna Kohut, Kathy Lewandoski, Cheryl Wosley, Shantelle Cnockaert, Darryl Carriere (Selkirk) & Cindy Aplin (Brandon).

## 2013 Scholarship Winners!

CUPE Local 998 is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 Scholarship Awards!

### *Congratulations to:*

Victoria Nikkel – Ross C Martin in Course Award  
Juhelle Boulet – In Course Award  
Darci Todoruk – Entrance Award

Thank you to all of this year's applicants and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

This year's scholarship selection committee, Kelli Howell, Shelley Allen, Lisa Horishney and Jean-Pierre Berard were incredibly inspired by the hopes, visions and enormous talent of all the candidate's essays.



Darci Todoruk - Entrance Award



Juhelle Boulet - In Course Award



Victoria Nikkel - Ross C Martin In Course Award

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***Stay tuned for the 2014 Scholarship  
Deadline!***

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## Cupe National Convention – Celebrating 50 Years

The CUPE National Convention was held in Quebec City, Qc Oct 21 – 25/13. In Attendance was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Michelle Balina, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Denis Cote, Treasurer Mike Kubrakovich, Executive Rick Bosiak and also Arlene Macklem.

Below is the Report from first time Convention Delegate and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Denis Cote

### CUPE National Convention Report

By: Denis Côté, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Oct 2013

As a first-ever attendee of a Union convention, I didn't know what to expect. And this convention wasn't even your standard, run-of-the-mill National Convention either. Your Union celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, so this convention was quite the experience. I attended one day before the Convention Business started so I could participate in the meetings for the Electrical Sector and MB/SK Caucus issues.

The Electrical Sector Meeting gave me a chance to see how the issues we face with cross-jurisdictional appointments, bargaining, and fears of contracting out are shared across the country. With the MB/SK Caucus, we chose our caucus choice General VP (Kelli Moist), Regional VP (Mike Davidson), and encouraged some resolutions to be passed. The National President, Paul Moist, even called out and recognized Arlene Macklem for her years of dedicated service since she's about to retire.

Much of the convention itself was debate over resolutions regarding niche issues. The issue that I found most interesting was that of the "young worker", meaning a CUPE member under 30. This was made more interesting because this was touted as "The Year of the Young Worker" by CUPE National. The reason I found this fascinating is because this was the cause of the liveliest debate. In the end, every resolution brought forward to recognize or help young workers in the end was defeated.

Another resolution that would have been fantastic, if passed, would have helped our Local out a great deal. This resolution would have made all locals move to a percent based dues structure instead of a flat fee (like we have). Our Treasurer, Mike Kubrakovich, even spoke on the issue, trying to persuade the delegates how working within a flat dues structure is difficult, becoming increasingly difficult with each General Wage Increase and Wage Increment.

On Wednesday, we spent our lunchtime supporting a CUPE Local on strike in the City of Québec. The march, over a thousand members strong, went to the Province's Legislature to speak out against the city's mayor asking their Premiere for unfair back-to-work laws.

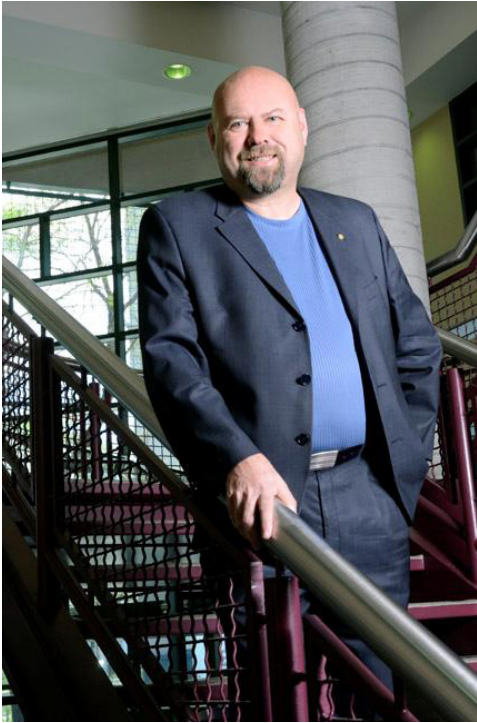


In all, convention was an experience to remember. It's a way to help us all realize that CUPE is something so much more than the 1200 members around us. It really is nearly three quarters of a million people, working together.

*For further convention reports, see CUPE website/Communications*

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## Introducing CUPE 998 National Rep Wally Skomoroh



**Wally Skomoroh** has been a National Representative since early 2006, after completing the Accelerated Rep Trainee Program in 2005. Previous to Wally's work for the Regional Office, he worked for two years as the CUPE Manitoba Coordinator.

Originally a member of CUPE Local 500, Wally served his local as a Steward for many years in the Public Works Department before taking on the role of Full Time Public Works Unit President. Being a Steward and Unit President in Local 500 brings plenty of litigation experience which eased Wally's transition into becoming a Servicing Rep.

As a National Representative, Wally became as the Manitoba Organizer and was later moved into the Long Term Care and Child Care portfolio; and it was in the Child Care assignment where Wally was able to negotiate a Defined Benefits Pension Plan for the members of Nor West Day Care Inc – the first such plan for child care workers in Western Canada. He has also served as the CUPE Manitoba Long Term Care Coordinator, and was a catalyst in reviving the dormant Private Personal Care Home Council.

Much of Brother Skomoroh's experience has been servicing Local 500. He had served City workers up until October 2012. Again, due to the litigious nature of this assignment, Wally has gained tremendous knowledge in the field of arbitrations and collective bargaining.

Currently, Wally serves as the Manitoba Representative for the National Privatization/Contracting Out Committee, is the Manitoba Health and Safety Representative, and is the CUPE Manitoba School Sector Coordinator. In addition, Wally also serves on his National Union (CSU) as the Recording Secretary.

Despite a full work load, Wally does enjoy spending his free time following his beloved Winnipeg Blue Bombers and serves on both the United Way Leadership Board of Directors and on the Minister's Advisory Council for Health and Safety.

Wally is very excited to be assigned to CUPE L998 and hopes to be able to assist any and all members in the work place challenges in the post-Bob Brennan Era.

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## **CUPE Local 998 Committees & Chairs**

The Standing Committees consist of the following:

- Communication - Michelle Balina
- Constitution & By-Laws - Mike Kubrakovich
- Education - Kelli Howell
- Equal Rights & Opportunities - Lorenzo Dufrane
- Grievances - Kelli Howell
- Job Evaluation - Kelly Spence
- Pension & Superannuation - Darryl Forbes
- Political Action - Rick Bosiak
- Strategic Planning - Kelli Howell
- Wages & Agreements - Marlene Schlag
- Workplace Safety & Health - Michelle Balina

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*If you are interested in joining a committee, please send an email to the Committee Chair*

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## **More Ways to Get Involved!**

### **Join a Committee**

Become involved by joining a committee, if interested send an email to your committee chair.

### **Volunteer at Up-coming Events**

We are always looking for volunteers for our upcoming events, if interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Michelle Balina for more information.

### **Become a Steward**

Our Chief Steward Kelli Howell is always looking for more members to become involved. Become a Steward in your area. For more details, contact Kelli Howell.

## **Upcoming General Membership Meetings**

2014 dates TBA