



Donna Hokiro, USW1944 President

## HOPE AND PERSEVERANCE FOR 2023

“As 2022 is ending, I want to thank each of you and tell you how grateful and proud I am of the membership of this Local.

All year long, you have worked hard, whether on the phones or the tools keeping Canada connected, advocating for your coworkers in investigative meetings and grievances as stewards. Whether as a member of our Committees or as a Unit Official, you have worked hard to unify and build a better Union. Thank you for the work you do, and thank you for the work you will continue to do.

As you know, the past year has been marked by many negotiation sessions. Many meeting days have been spent bargaining with Telus or with ADT by Telus. We are fighting to get you and your family a fair deal.

For too long, the Company has “nickel and dimed” you when it comes to paying, benefits, and working conditions, hungering after ever-greater profits resulting from your hard work. For too long, they have pushed the envelope and demanded more work while giving less.

Enough is enough!

This year we have seen you stand up for your rights, stand up to these demands and challenge the Employer. You have supported your Bargaining Committee. You have put your shoulder to the wheel, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mobilization, activism, and fighting for your rights have to be constant. Whether during negotiations or once an agreement is reached, our solidarity must remain intact for all future actions and objectives.

To the other members whose fights are yet to begin, together, we will embrace them and battle onward, seeking gains for you as well. There is not an Employer whom we will back down from, not a member for whom we will not fight. 1944 is stronger because of you.

We must move forward in 2023, united with determination and strength.

I want you to know that I will be there for you every step of the way, along with an outstanding team of activists and leaders.

With my whole heart, I wish you and those that you love a most wonderful holiday season.”

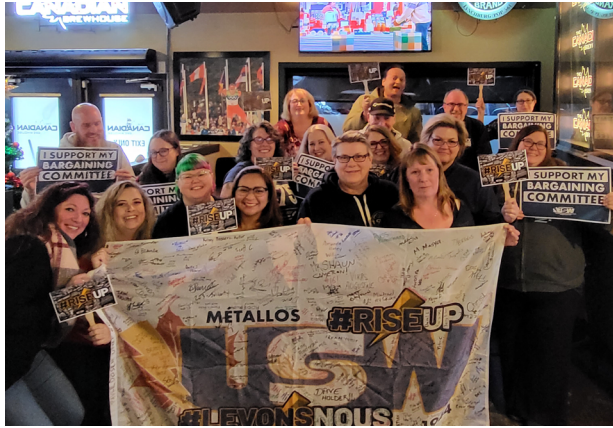
#RiseUP #InItTogether

- *President Donna Hokiro*



# SOLIDARITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

## Flag event



Unit 207 - Edmonton - Clerical

For updates and info on when/ where to sign the flag when it comes to your Unit!

Visit [USW1944.CA](http://USW1944.CA)



## Solidarity event



Unit 8 - Kamloops - Plant

## Solidarity Sunday

## Holiday Solidarity Party



Lower Mainland Units-Organized by Elana Felty Unit 51 Chair and Ross Brown Unit 7 Chair



Montreal-Organized by Brendan Taylor Unit 602 Chair and Terika Peters Unit 604 Secretary

## Unit 60 Cruisemas

## Leafleting in Montreal



Organized by Bill Furlong & David Makoutz



Alexander Livingston  
Local Union Representative,  
Terika Peters Unit 604, Michel Brunet  
and Brendan Taylor from Unit 602



# DISTRICT 5 CONVENTION - MOBILIZATION IS PROGRESS



USW Quebec (D5) Director Dominic Lemieux opened the meeting by hammering home “Don’t sleep on your solidarity,” referring to the fact that one may be tempted to stop fighting after an agreement has been signed.



One of the most powerful moments of the Convention. Ocean Remorquage, on strike since June 20, faced the absence of a federal anti-scab legislation as their positions are currently occupied by sailors who are legally, but not ethically, hired. They needed people to join them on the picket line. Tons of members took the mic to offer their support.



Bloc Québécois MP for Manicouagan Marilène Gill shared the victory of adopting the protection of pension plans law in case of bankruptcy, a project she strategically collaborated with the opposition parties.



Pierre-Luc Dick, USW1944 VP, offering help from Local 1944 to Ocean Remorquage



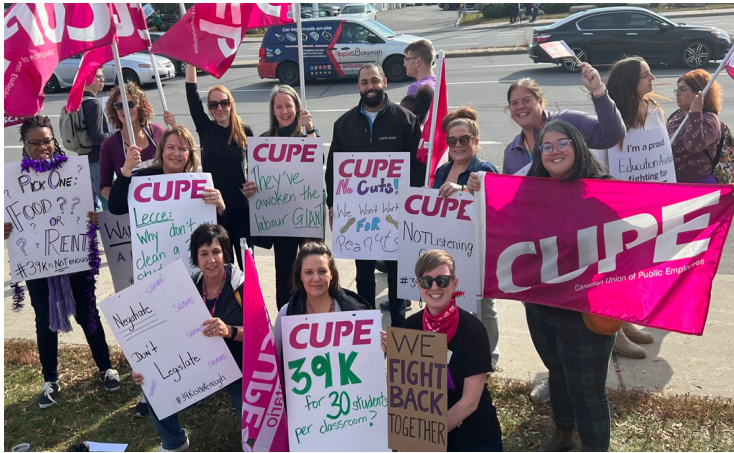
A roundtable discussion occurred on workplace organizing, where we learned about the issues and stories of bringing new workplaces into the Union.



Kalpona Akter, founder and director of the Solidarity Center for Bangladeshi Workers, gave a strong and moving testimony about the working conditions and severe punishments that workers can face if they rise against their boss in Bangladesh.

# CUPE WINS AGAINST THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

On November 3, the Ontario government forced a collective agreement on education workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). That imposed Collective Agreement included a four-year contract that limits wage increases to 1.5% or 2.5%, and special legislation was passed preventing members from striking. Ontario Premier Doug Ford had also threatened a “notwithstanding” clause to block any legal challenge to this action.



In response to this unfair agreement and undemocratic restriction on Union activities, on November 4, 55,000 education workers started walking out, facing up to \$4,000 in daily fines to protest. The power of solidarity was their key weapon against injustice.

The walkout lasted four days. Faced with this strike, the Ford government finally agreed to withdraw its oppressive bill and return to the negotiation table.

Despite many late-hour attempts to achieve a freely negotiated settlement, the negotiations hit a wall again. So, on November 16, CUPE filed a five-day notice to go back on strike.

Finally, CUPE and the government agreed, including a raise in salaries of 3.59%, and on December 5, members voted to ratify the contract. Seventy-three percent (73) were in favour.



The story of CUPE versus the Ford Government should inspire each of us in Local 1944 to realize how much can be accomplished by workers who unite, support each other, refuse to be intimidated, and have “right” on their side. This is the unbeatable combination that defines the word

“SOLIDARITY.”



Check out our three new USW ads that bring awareness to what we're fighting for!

