

## Central Area CUPE Nova Scotia

It's been quite a year in CUPE this year. I'd like to acknowledge the work of our Executive Board members who have tried to support our locals and members across the province in a year none of us expected.

Once we recovered from convention last year, the exec met several times by Zoom to plan. Several of us represented our locals at Weeklong in Holyrood, Newfoundland in June. As always, the workshops were valuable, but the collaboration with members from across NS and Newfoundland brings new ideas too. In July we met for 3 days as an Executive, plotted out our year, our goals and major events for members. We had more zoom meetings, and many joined us here in the Halifax Pride parade.

September started with Labour day events in Halifax, and 4 days of Exec meetings mid month. October saw many of us attend CUPE National convention in Toronto. Nova Scotia was well represented, with members on convention committees, national committees, and so many who got up to the mics at sectors and the main convention floor to speak to resolutions and constitutional amendments. We hosted our first OHS conference in conjunction with the NS Federation of Labour and the workplace Counsellor, and this was a huge success.

I attended the AGM for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in November with other members of the Board, as well as the AGM for the NS School Board Council. In December, several of us from NS did a week of training to become CUPE facilitators. There were about 35 CUPE members and staff from the east coast, and Ottawa staffers, and we were happy to host these sessions here too. The following week we met for 4 days for exec meetings, including sector checkins and sessions with CUPE staff at Regional office. January brought planning for the Womens conference, in February we rallied at selected facilities to support long term care bargaining, met for 3 days as an Exec, rallied at the Legislature for long term care, and we hosted 2 tables at the Black History Month Festival of Arts Dinner. In March our Executive attended the International Womens Day breakfast on March 6, then we finished the weekend with our CUPE Womens conference, with some self care time and some truly inspiring speakers. We met over March break for 3 days as an exec, many more Zoom calls, and I attended the rally for school library workers along with many meetings for this in Halifax. The mobilization for our library staff was significant, and thank you to members across all sectors who lent their voices and support to our members. Thanks as well to ARO staff who jumped in to work with the group from Local 5047 to make this happen.

April was many zooms, convention planning, and supporting Long term care. As an Exec we committed to visiting every picket line during the first weeks, and to revisit as often as we could. The number of picket lines continues to grow, and so has our resolve to support the Committee and the members on the lines.

We also had Local 3912 at Dal out in September/October, SMU and MSVU in late October, and NSCAD in March. We currently have over 3000 members on strike in LTC across the province, and more to join. Education is in province wide bargaining, with many filing for conciliation this week,

I act as the liaison to the provincial education committee, and want to recognize the efforts of this group. They had a work plan developed at All Committees last year, and have worked to

see the tasks to completion. That committee is up for election this year, please consider putting your name in for the elections to this or any other committee or position up this week.

It's been a busy year, bargaining, strikes, learning opportunities, conventions, conferences, and meetings of all kinds. Looking back on the calendar for the year is always a shock at just how busy we are, but with the team here at the Executive table, our locals and our members, we get it done! Thank you for the opportunity to play a role in all of this!