**CUPE NATIONAL YOUNG WORKERS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**NS 61st Convention**

The National Young Workers Committee has been full tilt this year. Meeting in person twice over the last year as well as a few zoom calls and constantly reaching out to one another on our What’s App group weekly, if not daily. We have been in touch frequently.

Our first meeting was held in Ottawa at the National office in August 2024. Due to this time frame myself and another YW on the committee were able to take part in Capital Pride along with the National Pink Triangle Committee. This was such a great experience!

During this trip we met with Fae Johnson from Queer Momentum. They have been working on amazing things and are trying to accelerate the advocacy for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Along with working with the Wisdom2Action (W2A) out of Halifax.

We meet with the National Pensions Committee. A very lengthy and informative conversation was had. Pensions can be very rewarding, but it is a fight to get as most union members are aware. Trying to bring this forward to YW’s can be a challenge and we seek plain language to help. CUPE BC YW has on their site many great resources to help aide us. As well as training available form CUPE National.

We spent this time to also plan our first ever National Young Workers Conference. Many in awe at the background support needed to pull this off. With great strides we also faced many challenges of the what ifs and how can we. Along with working on resolutions to submit for National Convention.

We meet with Andreanne Chenier and talked about a Mental Health Toolkit and how this affects MANY YW’s as well as all members. As YW we are often told it’s our turn to do the work, but no one listens when we reply. That YW’s should take on more (when most already work extra jobs) and then told that we are too sensitive when being spoken to.

We also meet with Bushar Asghar from Youth Climate Corp. We discussed many different topics.

In March 2025, we meet again in person for 1 day to finalize our plans/roles for the conference the next day. We are very proud to have had a part in the planning stages of the 1st National Young Workers Conference! There will always be hiccups along the way but the feed back from the attending YW’s was amazing. I was very happy to see the attendance from our province and to meet many of you face to face! With many sessions for those attending as well as an Open Space forum towards the end. I took notes at each group for the committee and made sure they were passed along. Each person’s voices were most certainly heard, and they all did a fantastic job!

May we see many more step out and become the activists we all believe they can be and so rightly deserve.

In solidarity (and with apologies to my long-winded report, with to much good to not speak out!),

 Miriah Drever - NYWC