

National Library Worker Committee Update

Nov 4- 6, 2024 Meeting in Ottawa - Day One

- Provincial reports were submitted, The high levels of violence in all libraries continues to be a big concern for all.
- Employers did not recognize National Library Month or National Library Worker Day or School Library Worker Day.
- Jobs are going unfilled and people continue to work short
- Committee members visited the Ottawa Trans Library for a tour and conversation with Tara Sypniewski, the Head Librarian. The Library provides space to the Trans community and It was an incredibly informative and inspiring experience.

Day 2 - Sessions

- Discussions were had on CUPE's Housing Policy and the federal election
- Discussion about the National Survey on Workplace Violence - Members identified other measures such as toolkits and workshops to support members with violence in the workplace
- Discussion around Library work and Mental Health and Wellbeing, Members were reminded of the resources contained In CUPE's mental health tool kit that can be ordered or downloaded from CUPE's Website
- Collective Agreement Language regarding violence in Libraries was presented
- Drag Story Time events - Resolution No. 1 - We continue to work on this resolution are are creating a toolkit for Library workers to ensure that all Libraries who wish to sponsor Drag StoryTime can do so while keeping staff and performers safe
- Brainstormed new Ideas to Celebrate Canadian Library Month

Day 3 - Planning the next meeting

- Training on the right to refuse, education on psychologically safe workplaces, perhaps visiting another library.

April 29 - May 1, 2025- Meeting in Ottawa

Day One

- Provincial reports were presented. violence, working short, workload and the opioid crisis continue to be the issues in most libraries.
- The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work & Psychologically Safe Workplaces. An excellent session.

- Resolution Number 1 is ongoing, we filmed some short videos in support and continue to work on this resolution.

Day Two

- Discussion around how we can Celebrate National Library Month in a more positive way, Guests Matt Stella and Gabrielle Soret-sousa demonstrated some campaign ideas
- Unwanted Interactions: Patron-Perpetrated Sexual Harassment in Libraries, Guest Danielle Allard of University of Alberta presented her research on public libraries. It was shocking to see how many Library workers have been sexually harassed and assaulted in their workplace and the employer's unwillingness to do anything. The next stage of research will be in preventative measure
- Brainstorming session: convention resolutions

Day 3

- Brainstorming continued with ideas around a town hall to educate Public Library Workers regarding Patron-Perpetrated Sexual Harassment, The defunding of Libraries, Priority in the workplace, the creation of collective language agreement specifically for School Librarians, the opioid crisis and the idea of a National K-12 Education Committee
- Resolution be will completed and sent to National before the July deadline

Submitted By Kristin Welbourn, Local 5047