

To whom it may concern:

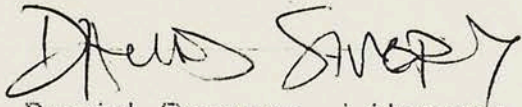
I would like the following information to be included in the package which will be distributed to the members before the vote to affiliate with CUPE:

Members:

I would like to explain a paradox that seems to be evident in our affiliation with CUPE- to wit, what is the advantage afforded to us in being affiliated to 331,000 people, if we are to remain a separate, certified bargaining island unto ourselves? Apparently, we would gain access to CUPE's resources- their lawyers, their researchers and their defence funds- but not their manpower (ie not a mass strike action). This access is conditional upon the nature of our need and would depend on our need setting a precedent and/or having a large-scale, national effect. This means that the decision with respect to resource access would be made by the majority in Ontario, and would almost certainly have us at some point bemoaning "regional disparity".

Before we consider an affiliation with CUPE, we should first consider whether or not we should affiliate with anyone, and from there, consider an affiliation with another union like the BCGEU (who, until our present president closed negotiations with them, were interested in accepting us). The major advantage to joining a union like the BCGEU is that we would be part of a large local union with a better understanding of the local issues before us.

I am not suggesting that we should not affiliate with CUPE, only that we should vote no to stall for time. I doubt that CUPE will lose interest in us, we owe them nothing, and our exploring of alternatives in no way constitutes bad faith, simply good planning.


David Savory, Library