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## Affiliation Research Report

### CUPE - Some Facts about the Constitution

This report covers the structure and organization of CUPE as set out in the National Constitution. It does not cover aspects of government at the local level.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. The organization of workers, particularly in the public service.
2. The advancement of the social, economic and general welfare of these workers.
3. The defence and extension of the civil rights and liberties and the preservation of free democratic trade unionism.
4. The improvement of the wages, working conditions, hours of work, job security and other conditions of public employees.
5. The promotion of efficiency in public service generally.
6. The promotion of peace and freedom in the world, and the co-operation with free and democratic labour movements throughout the world.
7. The total utilization of our nation's natural and human resources primarily for the satisfaction of human need.

#### PROVINCIAL DIVISION

- established when 10 locals or more indicate desire, 1 per province.
- Power -assists National Executive to implement policies.
- may make policy that does not conflict with CUPE National Policy.
- regulated by by-laws in National Constitution

#### DISTRICT COUNCILS

- established when 5 or more locals indicate desire.
- Power and Function -coordinates activities of the area
- assists National Executive to implement policies.
- regulated by by-laws in National Constitution.

#### SERVICE DIVISION

- established by the National Executive. - only 1 per service division (none in B.C.)
- Power and Function -may act on behalf of, or in place of any local in the Division.
- regulated by National Constitution and additional by-laws set by itself and approved by the National Executive.
- may levy dues on locals
- may convene local meetings

#### PROVINCIAL UNION

- locals operating on a province wide basis may be chartered as a provincial Union.
- operates as a local in terms of by-laws etc.

#### PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF UNIONS

- these exist where labour legislation makes it possible and desirable for the sole purpose of bargaining.
- The National Executive makes or approves the necessary rules and regulations governing its operation.

#### COUNCILS OF UNIONS

- established and chartered by CUPE for the purpose of bargaining.
- National Executive has the power to establish council, approve it's by-laws, and dissolve the council.

#### PROVINCIAL OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

- established under the auspices of the Provincial Division, locals that do not belong to the Division may still participate in the occupational groups.
- Power and Function -coordinates activities of occupational groups
- by-laws subject to National Executive approval.

A note on local by-laws: The basic regulations are in the National Constitution, additions are approved by the National President. If the additions requested are in partial non-compliance with the National Constitution the approval of the National Executive Board is required.

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# CUPE STRUCTURE

## THE CONVENTION

FREQUENCY: held bi-ennially

DELEGATES: 1 per 100 up to 200; 1 per next 300;  
1 per next 500 up to 3000.

(AUCE Provincial would have 8 delegates)

SPECIAL CONVENTIONS:- called by Convention

- or by the National Executive Board

- or by a majority of CUPE locals

POWER: - the ultimate power

- elects the National Officers

## THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMPOSITION: National Officers (President, Secretary-Treasurer, 5 General Vice-Presidents, 10 Regional Vice-Presidents elected at Convention)

- POWERS: - examine internal servicing facilities & requirements of locals, and other CUPE bodies, may return sufficient funds to maintain internal servicing in lieu of direct assistance from CUPE personnel
- conduct investigations of any body in cases of suspected corruption or domination, or activity or policy contrary to CUPE policy.
  - may then by a 2/3 vote place body under supervision, trusteeship or suspension; this decision is appealable at Convention.
  - all officers may sit and have voice but no vote on all meetings of all bodies.
  - hire staff

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: a minimum of 4 times per year

## THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION: National President, Secretary-Treasurer, 5 General Vice-Presidents

POWERS: Responsible when Executive Board not meeting

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: meets just before Executive Board & a minimum of once between Board meetings.

## THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

- Chief administrative officer of CUPE
- does all finances, budget, books & documents, invests surplus funds
- can inspect all books

## THE PRESIDENT

- represents CUPE
- sole authority to interpret the Constitution - subject to appeal to National Executive Board.
- carry out wishes of the Executive Board.

### EMERGENCY PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- may place a body under an administrator. Decision subject to review by the National Executive Board & Committee.
- administrator thus appointed has full authority to conduct the affairs and finances of the body, subject to National Executive Board.
- Decision to put a body under administration subject to review in 12 months.
- subject to appeal at Convention.