



Education is such an important component of being active in the Local. CUPE Local 8920 holds true to that fundamental principle and provide more opportunity than any other Local in the province to participate in education sessions. A new education schedule for 2018 will soon be released by CUPE and it made sense to ensure all 8920 members are aware and understand the process as there have been some changes.

The registration form can be found on the CUPE 8920 website and filled out directly online and submitted. This is the only form of registration that will be accepted by the Local. A Local of our size has a dedicated Education Coordinator who does a wonderful job of submitting members to the courses as per availability caps and keeps track of registrations, courses, requests, room bookings and coordinates as necessary with the Secretary-Treasurer. Before applying for courses please review the most up to date 8920 Education Guidelines which were endorsed by the membership through a provincial vote and became effective January 2018. It would be helpful to review the most recent Travel/Accommodations Guidelines as well.

CUPE National, Education Division, has introduced a cap of 7 members per local to be registered for any course. 8920 immediately recognized that this would create a barrier of access to our members as we are so active in educations and so large in membership. This has been communicated to CUPE by the Local but at this time they are sticking with their cap of 7 decision. Because of our size, geographical challenges and nature of the daily work we do in healthcare a standby system for seats will not be realistic to manage or for availability.

This has forced the Local to evaluate our first come first serve registration process. Area VPs will communicate to the Education Coordinator the names and needs to keep a watch for in the registration forms as received. The Local needs to ensure new folks in the system or thinking of becoming active have an opportunity to receive education as well. The courses which are reflective of a role will be considered first, ie. A member on the JOSH committee applies for an OH&S course will have priority over a person who does not hold a position or seat on a committee. However, this does not mean we will not fill all of our 7 seats in a course if possible and hopefully all that request such course would be accepted. It is important to understand just because a person has not had the course in the past does not necessarily give them a priority.

If the Education Coordinator has a significant quantity of registration forms or the Executive Board determines a need for a specific course then we may request a Local specific course be put on in a central location for 8920 members to ensure all of our members access that course.

If you were previously interested in a course but unable to attend because our maximum cap was met please reapply as you determine appropriate on the next calendar of education. There will be no carryover of rejected registration forms from year to year.

Cheers to 2018 being a productive and exciting year for CUPE Local 8920 and all our members!!

In Solidarity,

Bev Strachan  
President CUPE 8920