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# **Aboriginal Council Conference** **October 23 - 24, 2017**

*Celebrating Our Successes*

**North Battleford, SK**

**Event Centre | Gold Eagle Casino**

**CUPE SASKATCHEWAN  
ABORIGINAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
2016 – 2017**

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**HEATHER ACOOSE**

(CUPE 3967)

Member

Elected 2015 for a two-year term.

**BRENNAN MERASTY**

(CUPE 4607)

Member

Elected 2015 for a two-year term.

**JILLIAN SEEBACK**

(CUPE 5111)

Member

Elected 2016 for a two-year term.

**JODI (JOE-ANN) GOSSELIN**

(CUPE 5999)

Senator

Aboriginal Member, CUPE Saskatchewan Executive Board

Re-elected 2016 for a two-year term.

**DAVID MILLER**

(CUPE 4777)

*Alternate* Aboriginal Member, CUPE Saskatchewan Executive Board

Re-elected 2016 for a two-year term.

**TONY HEAD**

CUPE National Representative

Staff Advisor

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The Aboriginal Council Committee is a Standing Committee of CUPE Saskatchewan – the provincial division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the political arm of CUPE locals in Saskatchewan.

The Aboriginal Council Committee acts as a resource to CUPE Saskatchewan on Aboriginal issues by advising and making recommendations to the Executive Board on Aboriginal issues; carries out the policies and programs of CUPE Saskatchewan; recommends and/or prepares resource material and a list of speakers on aboriginal issues; establishes Aboriginal peoples' place within CUPE Saskatchewan; works for the integration of Aboriginal perspectives in CUPE's work; discusses Aboriginal issues occurring across the province; promotes National Aboriginal Day - June 21; develops working links with other Aboriginal organizations, unions, like-minded groups and other CUPE Saskatchewan Committees; acts as an advisor or facilitator regarding labour/Aboriginal concerns, and forwards issues to the National Aboriginal Council.



# ABORIGINAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE 2017

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## **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

Union solidarity is based on the principle that union members are equal and deserve mutual respect at all levels. Any behaviour that creates conflict prevents us from working together to strengthen our union.

As unionists, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We should neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Discriminatory speech or conduct which is racist, sexist, transphobic or homophobic hurts and thereby divides us. So too, does discrimination on the basis of ability, age, class, religion, language and ethnic origin.

Sometimes discrimination takes the form of harassment. Harassment means using real or perceived power to abuse, devalue or humiliate. Harassment should not be treated as a joke. The uneasiness and resentment that it creates are not feelings that help us grow as a union.

Discrimination and harassment focus on characteristics that make us different; and they reduce our capacity to work together on shared concerns such as decent wages, safe working conditions, and justice in the workplace, society and in our union.

CUPE's policies and practices must reflect our commitment to equality. Members, staff and elected officers must be mindful that all persons deserve dignity, equality and respect.

CUPE Saskatchewan  
**Aboriginal Council Conference**  
**October 23 - 24, 2017**  
**Agenda**

Event Centre | Gold Eagle Casino | North Battleford, SK

*As of October 20, 2017*

**Monday, October 23, 2017**

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Smudge

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

**9:00 a.m. Call to order**

Equality Statement

Welcome from Conference hosts: CUPE Saskatchewan Aboriginal Council Committee

Elder's blessing by Donovan Arcand

Greetings

Tom Graham, President, CUPE Saskatchewan

Linda Vancuren, Vice-President, CUPE 5111

Nicole Sarauer, Leader of the Official Opposition, Saskatchewan NDP

Written greetings

***Break***

Guest speaker: Barb Byers

Announcements

**12:00 p.m. (Noon) Lunch** (*Lunch provided.*)

**1:00 p.m. Reconvene**

Guest speaker: Doug Racine, Aboriginal Law Group (Saskatoon)

Guest speaker: Harry Lafond, Executive Director, Office of the Treaty Commissioner

**Break**

Guest speaker: Conrad Burns

Adjournment

## **Monday, October 23, 2017, continued...**

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7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Evening Reception

*Featuring the Sweetgrass Dance Group*

## **Tuesday, October 24, 2017**

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8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Smudge

8:30 a.m. Registration

**9:00 a.m. Conference reconvenes**

Presentation: Successes with MMIWG Campaigns in CUPE  
Gloria Lepine, Diversity Vice-President, CUPE National

Guest speakers: Shauna Bugler and Michelle Atcheynum  
Sākeew High School, North Battleford, SK

Presentation: Following Their Voices  
Crissy Sutherland, Provincial Facilitator

Credentials Report

Elections

- Aboriginal Council Committee Member (two (2) year term)
- Aboriginal Council Committee Member (two (2) year term)

**Eligibility for election:** Only Aboriginal CUPE members shall be entitled to vote or stand for election.  
(Article 5, Section 9, *The CUPE Saskatchewan Constitution, 2017*)

Closing circle (*if time permits*)

Adjournment

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### BOTTLED WATER

Delegates are asked to refrain from commercially bottled water and, instead, drink tap water. Bottled water is banned from CUPE events. (Resolution E4, 2008 Convention)

### SCENT-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Delegates are asked to refrain from wearing scented products. (Resolution L15, 2007 Convention; Resolution E24, 2012 Convention)

### SMUDGING CEREMONY

A smudge will be held at the times indicated on the conference agenda.

What is Smudging? Smudging is a purification ceremony that usually initiates healing sessions. It is also a way to cleanse.

Smudging is done using the smoke from sacred plants such as sage, sweet grass, or cedar. The smoke from the sacred medicine purifies the mind, body, and spirit. The smoke is believed to disperse impurities.

Anyone can participate, though there are some traditional cultural restrictions. Ask a member of the Aboriginal Council to learn more.

