

Convention News

HEU elects union's 9th president, financial secretary, vice-presidents, and trustees

On Wednesday, delegates elected Ken Robinson as their new president from a field of six candidates. He was elected on the third ballot.



Robinson is a diet technician at Kelowna General Hospital and has been an HEU member for 20 years. He has held a number of positions on the union's provincial executive, most recently as the union's first vice-president, and is the chairperson of the Kelowna Amalgamated local.

Robinson thanked the delegates for their confidence, his family for their support and outgoing president, Fred Muzin, for his assistance over the years.

"You've helped so many members," he said to Muzin, "and one of them was me."

Robinson pledged to work tirelessly to "move this great union forward into our most challenging times."

"Over the next two years, it's important to continue building grassroots activism at the local level," he said, "and focus on protecting public health care and working with communities across B.C."

Donisa Bernardo was re-elected financial secretary. Victor Elkins, Carol Kenzie and Doreen Plouffe were elected 1st, 2nd and 3rd vice-president respectively. Jacqueline Zilkie and Louella Vincent were elected as senior trustee elect and trustee.

Judy Darcy was ratified again as the union's secretary-business manager.

BCGEU President talks 2010 bargaining and May 2009 provincial election

"HEU is one of the finest unions in this province," BCGEU president Daryl Walker told delegates in his solidarity greetings, "your activists are second to none, you do a lot and you deserve a lot."

Walker continued with a common convention theme and called for collective action leading up to the May 12 provincial election.

"At the end of the day we are family," he said, "this relationship will carry us over the next eight or nine months as we put a new government in place in this province."

Walker also promised to work with HEU to make community health and social services workers a "priority" during 2010 bargaining.

He ended with a tribute to outgoing president Fred Muzin, calling him "a great leader" who "never forgot where he came from."

Amendments and Resolutions

Amendments 26, 23, 13, 3, 1 (covering 2), 32, 33, 36, 31, 48, 9, 25, 16, defeated

Amendments 44, 55, 24, 34, 35, 58, 39, passed

Resolutions 123, 128, 129, 120, 21, defeated

Resolutions 56, composite 4 (49 and 50), composite 6, passed



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Leading Together**

CUPE leaders reinforce power of unity, solidarity

CUPE's national president Paul Moist and national secretary-treasurer Claude Généreux brought warm greetings to HEU delegates, congratulating them for their many victories and organizing accomplishments – while pledging the continued support of CUPE's 570,000-strong membership.



"Our goal has to be a workers' agenda," said Moist, reminding delegates that, "our lot in life is intertwined together" and "our only strength is solidarity."

Généreux underscored the importance of fighting privatization and contracting out in every part of the country.

"We are not alone in these struggles," he said, "public sector workers around the world are taking up this fight."

Equity night celebrates union's diversity and strength

