



LOCAL • 70712
Union of Environment Workers
SECTION LOCALE • 70712
Syndicat Des Travailleurs De L'environnement



National Convention

**The Fourteenth Triennial National Convention of the Union of Environment Workers
Halifax, NS on August 26 - 28, 2014**

Attendees:

Delegates: Stephen Vanneste and Michael Lister

Observers: Naveed Ahmad, Rubin Kooner, Luke Periard and Michael Grover

Firstly, I would like to thank the Members of Local 70712 for having faith in me and for sending me to The Fourteenth Triennial National Convention of the Union of Environment Workers.

It was my first National Convention I attended and was not quite sure what to expect.

The first day, we as a Local had a meeting to discuss all the Resolutions that had been presented by UEW to all Locals. We discussed the pros and cons of each resolution and concluded on how we would vote as a Local.

We then met all the other Locals in our Region and our Regional Vice President, Jayne Powers and strategized as a Region.

In the evening, there were gatherings per Region and I made a point to meet all the Regions. I also met up with the National President, Todd Panas. I have worked with him many times in the past and look forward to working with him in the future.

I spoke with other Locals from across Canada and built a rapport. We exchanged ideas and discussed the on goings of the Convention. As well, I talked about things we do as a Local and the new direction we are going. I also built a professional and personal relationship with the newly elected National Vice President, Jeff Irwin. I look forward to working with him in the future as well.

I didn't realize the scope of the Convention and had the opportunity to learn many different things. I learned the process of resolutions, creating and passing By-Laws for our component (UEW) and others to pass on to PSAC. I also learned about Union finances and budgets. For the next Convention, as there is a committee comprised of Executive Members from Locals across Canada for each area, I hope to be able to sit on one to help with the resolutions process.

One memorable moment and accomplishment was the passing of our Local resolution. Resolution #43, allows the Griever to attend their own hearings whereas before they were not allowed to go beyond a certain level. I helped our Local President and Vice-President with a background argument and analogy for the delegates voting on the resolution.



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The argument was: "Sometimes Local Reps and Service officers, do not have the same expertise or technical background in certain grievances. They would need to look to the Griever for support to answer questions that may arise. Therefore should be able to attend their own grievance."

All members now have the right to be present for their own grievance hearings at ANY level of the grievance process.

Closing the Convention, there was an election of new National Officers to represent our Component.

The knowledge and connections I have made at the Convention will help me become a better Chief Steward and give me valuable resources in the future.

It was a rewarding and satisfying experience for the Local and myself.
I once again want to thank everyone for the opportunity given to me.

Rubin Kooner

Chief Steward – Local 70712 / UEW