

Saskatchewan Indigenous Peoples Conference – November 6-7/2025 – Moose Jaw

Conference Theme: Service

CUPE Sask. Business:

Petitions dropped off in support of Jordan's Principle on Friday Nov 7th at MLA Tim McLeod's office.

"Your Neighbourhood Your Community" ad campaign

<https://www.publicservicevoter.ca>

CUPE campaign highlighting diversity and the realities faced by public service employees.

1. Recovery and the Importance of Language and Culture (Willis Janvier)
 - a. Dene language keeper and podcaster spoke about his journey through addiction to recovery, and how being a language keeper has provided meaning to his life.
2. HeART-Centered Practice: A Catalyst for Systems Change (Alex Powalinsky)
 - a. Prince Albert based art collective focusing on 2SLGBTQIA+ activism through the creation of the "Prism Project", which offers a safe-space to challenge colonialism, reclaim space in society, and celebrate indigenous identity.
3. Indigenous Art Practice: Guided by Relations (Stacy Fayant)
 - a. The history, art, and meaning behind indigenous tattooing.
4. Poster Contest (Kent Peterson)
 - a. CUPE Saskatchewan is holding a poster contest for the following environmental days: Earth Day, Clean Air Day, Water Day. Submission deadline November 21/2025.
5. Errrrr: Engaging in Responsible and Relational Systems (Janelle Pewapsconias)
 - a. Evolution of research surrounding Indigenous people and communities by focusing on the "5 Rs": respect, relevancy, reciprocity, responsibility, relationships. Following the 5 Rs leads to a safe and respectful way to collaborate within Indigenous communities.
6. Returning Warrior Medals (John Brady McDonald)
 - a. Discussion of historic oppression faced by Indigenous veterans in Canada, and the quest to return medals lost by these veterans to their families.
7. Implementing the Anti-Racism Strategy in Our Locals
 - a. Overviews of CUPE's Anti-Racism Strategy, and the implementation of the priority goals thus far.
 - i. 2022-23: Representation, Education, Bargaining, Data Collection
 - ii. 2023-24: Lived Experience, Governance, Organizing

- iii. 2024-25: Enforce the Collective Agreement, Political Action, Coalition Work
 - iv. 2025-26: Finish implementing the priority goals
 - v. 2027: Review of the strategy and vote for renewal at Nation Convention
8. Environmental Racism (Tony Head)
- a. Discussion of Bill C-5 and how Indigenous communities are being abused via exploitation of resources and improper waste disposal/clean up after industrial activity.
9. CUPE Communications Update (Theresa Walkowki)
- a. “Your Neighborhood Your Community” campaign, 11,000 signatures received in support of Jordan’s Principle backfill, coordinated bargaining session for EWSC, future campaigns for \$10/day childcare and health care workers in progress.
10. Political Action Update (Tria Donaldson)
- a. Continues pressure on Sask. Party to address concerns around Indigenous issues, the drug crisis, sale of Crown Land, underfunding of education and health care. The Liberals have planned 15% budget cuts for Indigenous Service Canada, First Nation communities are still without clean drinking water 10 years after the Liberal took office.

What can we do as Indigenous allies:

Use privilege to speak out

Hold space for Indigenous people, don’t take space

The Conference was informative, and the ideas and knowledge presented are necessary for anyone living in Canada.