

## **CUPE BC Convention 2023**

The following resolution was passed at the CUPE BC Convention, April 26-29, 2023.

### **Resolution No. 27**

CUPE BC WILL:

Lobby the provincial government to act on the urgent recommendations of the BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel: A Review of Illicit Drug Toxicity (March 22), which included recommendations to:

- ensure a safer drug supply to those at risk of dying from the toxic illicit drug supply;
- develop a 30/60/90-day Illicit Drug Toxicity Action Plan with ongoing monitoring; and
- establish an evidence-based continuum of care.

BECAUSE:

- More than 11,000 British Columbians have died from toxic drugs since B.C. declared a Public Health Emergency in 2016;
- Six British Columbians are dying each day due to a toxic drug supply;
- Illicit drug toxicity is the leading cause of unnatural death in the province, accounting for more deaths than homicides, suicides, motor vehicle incidents, drownings, and fire-related deaths combined;
- In the past 2 years, 65 children and youth have died from using toxic drugs;
- Indigenous people are disproportionately represented in drug toxicity fatalities – 5 times higher than provincial average;
- CUPE workers who have lost family members to toxic drugs need advocates in the labour movement to advocate for a safe, regulated, legal supply of the drugs needed by those who are dependent; and
- Support is needed for CUPE workers across the province who are experiencing first-hand the effects of a toxic drug supply such as overdose and loss of loved ones.

*CUPE BC Executive Board*

*CUPE Local 2081*