



# By-Laws

Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Local 2618

Municipality of the County of Kings

and

Town of Berwick

May 28, 2007

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## **P R E A M B L E**

In order to improve the social and economic welfare of its members without regard to sex, colour, race or creed, to promote efficiency in public employment and to manifest its belief in the value of the unity of organized labour, this Local<sup>1</sup> of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (hereinafter referred to as CUPE) has been formed.

The following Bylaws are adopted by the Local pursuant to, and to supplement, Appendix "B" of the CUPE Constitution, to safeguard the rights of all members, to provide for responsible administration of the Local, and to involve as many members as possible through the sharing of duties and responsibilities.

### **SECTION 1 - NAME**

The name of this Local shall be Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2618 (Municipality of the County of Kings and Town of Berwick).

### **SECTION 2 - OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Local are to:

- (a) secure adequate remuneration for work performed and generally advance the economic and social welfare of its members and of all workers;
- (b) support CUPE in reaching the goals set out in Article II of the CUPE Constitution;
- (c) provide an opportunity for its members to influence and shape their future through free democratic trade unionism;
- (d) encourage the settlement by negotiation and mediation of all disputes between the members and their employers;
- (e) establish strong working relationships with the public we serve and the communities in which we work and live.

### **SECTION 3 - INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS**

- (a) Masculine pronouns shall be understood to include the feminine gender.
- (b) Numbers of Articles at the end of sections or sub-sections refer to relevant articles of the CUPE Constitution which should be read in conjunction with these bylaws.

### **SECTION 4 - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - Regular and Special**

- (a) Regular membership meetings shall be held every other month between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- (b) Special membership meetings may be ordered by the Executive Board or requested in writing by no fewer than ten (10) members. The President shall immediately call a special meeting when so ordered or requested and shall see that all members receive at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice of the special meeting and the subject(s) to be discussed. No business shall be transacted at the special meeting other than that for which the meeting is called and notice given.
- (c) A quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting shall be eight (8) members, including at least three (3) members of the Executive Board.
- (d) The order of business at regular membership meetings is as follows:
  - 1. Roll call of Officers
  - 2. Voting on new members and Initiation
  - 3. Reading of Minutes
  - 4. Matters arising
  - 5. Treasurer's report
  - 6. Communications and bills
  - 7. Executive Committee report
  - 8. Reports of committees and delegates
  - 9. Nominations, Elections, or Installations
  - 10. Unfinished business
  - 11. New business
  - 12. Good of the Union
  - 13. Adjournment

Article B.VIII

- (e) Those members attending meetings where a quorum is not achieved will be compensated by either a cheque for \$10 or a meal costing \$10.

## **SECTION 5 - VOTING OF FUNDS**

Except for ordinary expenses and bills as approved at membership meetings, no sum over two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be voted for the purpose of a grant or contribution to a member or any cause outside CUPE, except by a notice of motion given in writing and dealt with at the following membership meeting.

Article B.4.4

## **SECTION 6 - OFFICERS**

The officers of the Local shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, three (3) Trustees. All officers shall be elected by the membership.

Articles B.2.1 & B.2.3

## **SECTION 7 - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- (a) The Executive Board shall comprise all officers, except Trustees.  
Article B.3.14
- (b) The Board shall meet at least once every month.  
Article B.3.14
- (c) A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum.
- (d) The Executive officers shall hold title to any real estate of the Local as trustees for the Local. They shall have no right to sell, convey, or encumber any real estate without first giving notice and then submitting the proposition to a membership meeting and having it approved.
- (e) The Board shall do the work delegated to it by the Local and shall be held responsible for the proper and effective functioning of all committees.

- (f) All charges against members or officers must be made in writing and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the CUPE Constitution.

Articles B.6.1 and B.6.7

- (g) Should any Board member fail to answer the roll call for three consecutive regular membership meetings or four regular Board meeting without having submitted good reasons for those failures, his office shall be declared vacant and shall be filled by an election at the following membership meeting.

Article B.2.5

## SECTION 8 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- (a) The **President** shall:

- enforce the CUPE Constitution and these bylaws;
- preside at all membership and Executive Board meetings and preserve order;
- decide all points of order and procedure (subject always to appeal to the membership);
- have a vote on all matters (except appeals against his rulings) and in case of a tie vote in any manner, including elections, have the right to case an additional vote to break the tie;
- ensure that all officers perform their assigned duties;
- fill committee vacancies where elections are not provided for;
- introduce new members and conduct them through the initiation ceremony;
- sign all cheques and ensure that the Local's funds are used only as authorized or directed by the Constitution, bylaws, or vote of the membership;

- be allowed necessary funds, not to exceed \$25.00 monthly, to reimburse himself or any officers for expenses supported by vouchers, incurred on behalf of the Local and have first preference as a delegate to the CUPE National Convention.

Article B.3.1

(b) The **Vice-President** shall:

- if the President is absent or incapacitated, perform all duties of the President;
- if the office of President falls vacant, be Acting President until a new President is elected;
- render assistance to any member of the Board as directed by the Board.

Article B.3.2

(c) The **Recording Secretary** shall:

- keep full, accurate and impartial account of the proceedings of all regular or special membership and Board meetings, ensuring that these records include a copy of the full financial report presented by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- record all alterations in the bylaws;
- answer correspondence and fulfill other secretarial duties as directed by the Board;
- file a copy of all letters sent out and keep on file all communications;
- prepare and distribute all circulars and notices to members;
- have all records ready on reasonable notice for auditors and Trustees;
- preside over membership and Board meetings in the absence of both the President and vice-President;

- be empowered, with the approval of the membership, to employ necessary stenographic or other assistance to be paid for out of the Local's funds;
- on termination of office, surrender all books, seals and other properties of the Local to his successor.

Article B.3.3

(d) The **Secretary-Treasurer** shall:

- receive all revenue, initiation fees, dues, and assessments, keeping a record of each member's payments, and deposit promptly all money with a bank or credit union;
- prepare all CUPE National per capita tax forms and remit payment no later than the last day of the following month;
- throughout his/her term, and on behalf of the Local Union membership, be responsible for maintaining, organizing, safeguarding and keeping on file all supporting documents, authorizations, invoices and/or vouchers for every disbursement made, receipts for all money sent to CUPE headquarters, as well as records and supporting documents for all income received by the Local Union;
- record all financial transactions in a manner acceptable to the Board and in accordance with good accounting practices;
- make a full financial report to meetings of the Local's Executive Board, as well as a written financial report to each regular membership meeting, detailing all income and expenditures for the period;
- be bonded through the master bond held by the National Office, and any Secretary-Treasurer who cannot qualify for the bond shall be disqualified from office;
- pay no money unless supported by a voucher duly signed by the President and one other member of the Board or any two other members of the Board, except that no voucher shall be required for payments of per capita fees to any organization to which the Local is affiliated;



- make all books available for inspection by the auditors and/or Trustees on reasonable notice, and have the books audited at least once each calendar year and within a reasonable time, respond in writing to any recommendations and concerns raised by Trustees;
- provide the Trustees with any information they may need to complete the audit report forms supplied by CUPE;
- not later than February 28<sup>th</sup> each year, furnish each member, on the forms supplied by the National Office, with a statement showing the net amount of tax-deductible dues paid to him during the preceding calendar year;
- be empowered with the approval of the membership, to employ necessary clerical assistance to be paid for out of the Local's funds;
- notify all members who are one month in arrears and report to the Board all members two or more months in arrears in the payment of union dues;
- on termination of office, surrender all books, records and other properties of the Local to his successor.

Articles B.3.4 to B.3.9

(e) The **Trustees** shall:

- act as an auditing committee on behalf of the members and audit the books and accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer, the Recording Secretary and the Standing Committees at least once every calendar year,
- make a written report of their findings to the first membership meeting following the completion of each audit;
- submit in writing to the President and Secretary-Treasurer any recommendations and/or concerns they feel should be reviewed in order to ensure that the Local Union's funds, records, and accounts are being maintained by the Secretary-Treasurer in an organized, correct and proper manner;
- be responsible to ensure that monies are not paid out without proper constitutional or membership authorization;

- ensure that proper financial reports are made to the membership;
- audit the record of attendance;
- inspect at least once a year any stocks, bonds, securities, office furniture and equipment, and titles or deeds to property that may at any time be owned by the Local, and report their findings to the membership;
- send a copy of the completed audit report (on the prescribed form provided by the National Secretary-Treasurer), as well as a copy of their report to the Local Union membership along with a copy of their recommendations and/or concerns to the President and Secretary-Treasurer and the Secretary-Treasurer's response, to the National Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, with a copy to the assigned servicing representative;

Articles B.3.10 to B.3.12

## **SECTION 9 - OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES**

Out of pocket expenses incurred on behalf of Local 2618 while on approved union business shall be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts to the Secretary-Treasurer.

## **SECTION 10 – HONORARIUMS**

To acknowledge the value of the work involved each member of the Executive Committee shall receive an honorarium of \$500 per year and each Trustee shall receive \$50 per year.

## **SECTION 11 – DUES**

### **(a) Initiation Fee**

Each application for membership in the Local shall be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer and shall be accompanied by an initiation fee of two (\$2.00) dollars which shall be in addition to monthly dues. The Secretary-Treasurer shall issue a receipt. If the application is rejected, the fee shall be returned.

Articles B.4.1 & B.10.2

### **(b) Readmittance Fee**

The readmittance fee shall be five (\$5.00) dollars.

Articles B.4.1&B.11.2

(c) **Monthly Dues**

The monthly dues shall be 1.5% of regular wages.

Article B.4.3

Changes in the levels of the Initiation Fee, the Readmittance Fee, or the Monthly Dues can be effected only by following the procedure for amendment of these bylaws (see Section 16), with the additional provision that the vote must be by secret ballot.

Articles B.4.1 & B.4.3

Notwithstanding the above provisions, if the CUPE Convention raised dues above the level herein established these bylaws will be deemed to have been automatically amended to conform to the new CUPE minima.

Special assessments may be levied in accordance with Article B.4.2 of the CUPE Constitution.

## **SECTION 12 - NON-PAYMENT OF DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

Any member in arrears for a period of three months or more shall be automatically suspended and his suspension shall be reported to the Executive Board by the Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Board shall report to the next membership meeting with a recommendation. Any member under suspension wishing to be reinstated shall, upon application, pay the re-admittance fee, plus any dues and assessments in arrears. This money will be returned if the application is rejected. If a member has been unemployed or unable to work because of sickness, he shall pay the re-admittance fee but may not be required to pay his arrears.

Article B.11.1

## **SECTION 13 - NOMINATION, ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

(a) **Nomination**

Nominations shall be received at the regular membership meeting held in the month of September. To be eligible for nomination a member shall have attended at least fifty percent of the membership meetings held in the previous twelve months or in the period he was a member, if less than a year, unless a valid reason, acceptable to the Local, has been given for non-attendance. No nomination shall be accepted unless the member is in attendance at the meeting or has allowed to be filed at the meeting his consent in writing, duly witnessed by another member. No member shall be eligible for nomination if he is in arrears of dues and/or assessments.

(b) **Elections**

- (1) At a membership meeting at least one month prior to election day the President shall, subject to the approval of the members present, appoint an Elections Committee consisting of a Returning Officer and assistant(s). The committee shall include members of the Local who are neither officers nor candidates for office, it shall have full responsibility for voting arrangements and shall treat information submitted to it in connection with its responsibilities as confidential.
- (2) The Executive Board shall determine the form of the ballot and ensure that sufficient quantities are made available in good time to the Returning Officer.
- (3) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for issuing, collecting, and counting ballots. He must be fair and impartial and see that all arrangements are unquestionably democratic.
- (4) The voting shall take place at the regular membership meeting in November. The vote shall be by secret ballot.
- (5) Voting to fill one office shall be conducted and completed, and recounts dealt with, before balloting may begin to fill another office.
- (6) A majority of votes cast shall be required before any candidate can be declared elected, and second and subsequent ballots shall be taken, if

necessary, to obtain a majority. On the second and subsequent ballots the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in the previous ballot shall be dropped. In case of a final tie vote, the presiding officer may cast the deciding vote.

- (7) When two or more nominees are to be elected to any office by ballot, each member voting shall be required to vote for the full member of candidates to be elected or the member's ballot will be declared spoiled.
- (8) Any member may request a recount of the votes for any election and a recount shall be conducted if the request is supported, in a vote, by at least the number of members equal to the quorum for a membership meeting as laid down in Section 4 (c).

(c) **Installation**

- (1) All duly elected officers shall be installed at the meeting at which elections are held and shall continue in office for a two (2) year term or until a successor has been elected and installed, provided, however, that no term of office shall be longer than three years.

Article B.2.4

- (2) The terms of office for Trustees shall be as laid down in Article B.3.10 of the CUPE Constitution.

(d) **By-Election**

Should an office fall vacant pursuant to Section 7 (g) of these bylaws or for any other reason, the resulting by-election should be conducted as closely as possible in conformity with this Section.

## **SECTION 14 – DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS/SCHOOLS/EDUCATIONALS**

- (a) Except for the President's option [Section 8 (a)], all delegates to conventions shall be chosen by election at membership meetings.
- (b) All delegates elected to conventions/schools/educationals held within the Province of Nova Scotia shall be paid transportation expenses (at economy, tourist or coach rates or mileage rates which shall be the same as that of the

Provincial Government or Municipality of Kings, whichever is greater), a per diem allowance of fifty (\$50.00) dollars for expenses, and an amount equal to any loss of salary incurred by attendance at the function.

- (c) All delegates elected to conventions/schools/educationals held outside of the Province of Nova Scotia shall be paid transportation expenses as determined by the Local (most economic), a per diem of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for expenses, and an amount equal to any loss of salary incurred by attendance at the function.
- (d) It is the intention of the Local Union to have the Employer directly invoice the Local Union for any lost wages and benefits.
- (e) Representation at educationals and seminars shall be at the recommendation of the Executive Board, subject to final approval by the membership.

## **SECTION 15 – COMMITTEES**

### **(a) Negotiating Committee**

This shall be a special ad hoc committee established at least four (4) months prior to the expiry of the Local's collective agreement and automatically disbanded when a new collective agreement has been signed. The function of the committee is to prepare collective bargaining proposals and to negotiate a collective agreement. The committee shall consist of four (4) members, all elected except the President, at a membership meeting. The negotiation Committee shall consist of four (4) members, comprised of the President, and three (3) elected members. Two (2) of the elected members will be alternates to the committee meetings with the Employer. The CUPE representative assigned to the Local shall be a non-voting member of the committee and shall be consulted at all stages from formulating proposals, through negotiations, to contract ratification by the membership.

### **(b) Special Committees**

A special ad hoc committee may be established for a specified purpose and period by the membership at a meeting. The members shall be elected at the same or another membership meeting or may, by specific authorization of the membership, be appointed by the President or the Executive Board. Two members of the Board may sit on any special committee as ex-officio members.

(c) **Standing Committees**

The Chairperson of each standing committee shall be elected by the members at a membership meeting. The Chairperson and the Executive Board may, with the concurrence of the membership, jointly appoint other members to serve on a committee. The Vice-President shall be a member, ex-officio, of each committee. There shall be four standing committees as follows:

(1) **Grievance Committee**

This committee shall process all grievances not settled at the initial stage and its reports shall be submitted first to the Executive Board, with a copy to the CUPE representative, and then to a membership meeting.

Grievances must be in writing on the forms provided by the National Office and be signed by the complainant or complainants, as provided for in the collective agreement. The committee shall comprise the President, Chief Steward and one (1) other member. The committee shall appoint a secretary from among its members.

(2) **Social Committee**

It is the function of this committee to arrange and conduct all social, recreational and good of the Union activities of the Local either on the committee's own initiative or as a result of decisions taken at membership meetings. The committee shall submit reports and proposals to the Executive Board or to the membership as required. A ceiling for the committee's net expenditures shall be fixed annually by the membership but, other than that, all social and recreational events and activities shall be self-supporting. The Executive Board shall be held responsible for the proper and effective functioning of this committee. The committee shall be comprised of three (3) members, one from each of the Finance, Planning and Public Works Departments and may appoint a secretary-treasurer from among its members.

After a Member's 10+ days absence due to illness or a hospital stay, a gift shall be offered with the price not to exceed \$50.00. Sympathy cards shall be issued in the case of the death of a member's "immediate family" as defined (mother, father, spouse, child) and a donation of \$25 will be made to the charity outlined in the obituary.

(3) **Retirement Committee**

Members who are eligible to retire, shall receive \$100.00 upon leaving the local.

(4) **Education Committee**

To a maximum of \$500, a donation of \$50 per graduate shall be made each June toward the "Safe Grad" celebrations for the members' graduating students.

## **SECTION 16 – RULES OF ORDER**

All meetings of the Local shall be conducted in accordance with the basic principles of Canadian parliamentary procedure. Some of the more important rules to ensure free and fair debate are appended to these bylaws as Appendix "A". These rules shall be considered as an integral part of the bylaws and may be amended only by the same procedure used to amend the bylaws.

In situations not covered by Appendix "A", the CUPE Constitution may provide guidance, but, if the situation is not dealt with there, Bourinot's Rules of Order shall be consulted and applied.

## **SECTION 17 – AMENDMENT**

- (a) These bylaws are always subordinate to the CUPE Constitution (including Appendix "B") as it now exists or may be amended from time to time, and in the event of any conflict between these bylaws and the CUPE Constitution the latter shall govern. Constitutional interpretation, including determination of conflict, is the prerogative of the National President.

Articles 9.2 (c), 13.3, & B.7.1



- (b) These bylaws shall not be amended, added to, or suspended except upon a majority vote of those present and voting at a regular or special membership meeting following seven days notice at a previous meeting or at least sixty days written notice.

Article B.7.1

- (c) No change in these bylaws shall be valid and take effect until approved by the National President of CUPE. The validity shall date from the letter of approval of the National President.

Articles 13.3 & B.7.1

## APPENDIX "A" TO THE BYLAWS OF LOCAL 2618, CUPE

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### RULES OF ORDER

1. The President or, in his absence, the Vice-President, shall take the chair at all membership meetings. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the Recording Secretary shall act as President, and in his absence a President pro-tem shall be chosen by the Local.
2. No member, except the Chairperson of a committee making a report or the mover of a resolution, shall speak more than five minutes, or more than once on the same question without the consent of the meeting or until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity. Chairpersons and movers of a resolution shall be limited to fifteen minutes, except with the consent of the meeting.
3. The President shall state every question coming before the Local, and before allowing debate thereon, and again immediately before putting it to a vote, shall ask: "Is the Local ready for the question?" Should no member rise to speak, the question shall then be put.
4. A motion to be entertained by the presiding officer must be moved and seconded; both mover and seconder must rise and be recognized by the chair.
5. A motion to amend, or to amend an amendment, shall be in order, but no motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall be permitted. No amendment, or amendment to an amendment, which is a direct negative of the resolution shall be in order.
6. On motion, the regular order of business may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present, to deal with any urgent business.
7. All resolutions and motions other than those named in Rule 17, or those to accept or adopt the report of a committee, shall, if requested by the presiding officer, be presented in writing before being put to the Local.
8. At the request of any member, and upon a majority vote of those present, a question may be divided when the sense will admit of it.

9. Any member having made a motion can withdraw it with the consent of the seconder, except that any motion, once debated, cannot be withdrawn except by a majority vote of those present.
10. When a member wishes to speak on a question or to make a motion, he shall rise in his place and respectfully address the presiding officer, but, except to state that he rises to a point of order or on a question of privilege, he shall not proceed further until recognized by the chair.
11. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the presiding officer shall decide which one is entitled to the floor.
12. Every member, while speaking, shall adhere to the question under debate and avoid all personal, indecorous, or offensive language, as well as any poor reflection on the Local or member thereof.
13. If a member, while speaking, is called to order, he shall cease speaking until the point is determined; if it is decided he is in order, he may again proceed.
14. No religious discussion shall be permitted.
15. The President shall take no part in debate while presiding, but may yield the chair to the Vice-President in order to speak on any question before the Local, or to introduce a new question.
16. The presiding officer shall have the same rights as other members to vote on any question. In case of a tie, he may in addition give a casting vote, or, if he chooses, refrain from breaking the tie, in which case the motion is lost.
17. When a motion is before the Local, no other motion shall be in order except (1) to adjourn (2) to put the previous question (3) to lay on the table (4) to postpone for a definite time (5) to refer (6) to divide or amend, which motions shall have precedence in the order named. The first three of these shall be decided without debate.
18. A motion for the previous question, when regularly moved and seconded, shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" If it is adopted, the President shall proceed to take the vote on the resolution and amendments thereto (if any) according to their priority. If an amendment or an amendment to an amendment is adopted, the original resolution, as amended, shall be put to the Local.

19. A motion to adjourn is in order except (1) when a member has the floor, and (2) when members are voting.
20. A motion to adjourn, having been put and lost, shall not be in order again, if there is further business before the Local, until fifteen minutes have elapsed.
21. After the presiding officer declares the vote on a question, and before the Local proceeds to another order of business, any member may ask for a division. A standing vote shall then be taken and the Secretary shall count same.
22. If any member wishes to challenge (appeal) a decision of the chair, he must do so at the time the decision is made. If the challenge is seconded, the member shall be asked to state briefly the basis for his challenge. The Chairperson may then state briefly the basis for his decision, following which the Chairperson shall immediately and without debate put the question: "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?" A majority vote shall decide except that in the event of a tie the chair is sustained.
23. After a question has been decided, any two members who have voted in the majority may, at the same or next meeting, move reconsideration thereof.
24. No member shall enter or leave a meeting during the reading of the minutes, the initiation of new members, the installation of officers, or the taking of a vote; and no member shall be allowed to leave without the permission of the Vice-President.
25. The Local's business, and proceedings of meetings, are not to be divulged to any persons outside the Local or the Canadian Union of Public Employees.