



Building On Our Successes  
S'inspirer de nos succès  
June 5-7 Juin Winnipeg 2025  
cope**sepb**

NEWSLETTER

Thursday, June 5

# Welcome

## Welcome to Winnipeg and the 2025 COPE SEP Convention!

These next three days will be action-packed with plenty of inspiring speakers to hear from, and lots of work to do. We will be receiving updates on activities happening across our union, and debating resolutions that will set the direction for our national union for the next three years.

Today, we will hear from our national president, Annette Toth, who will deliver her first report since being acclaimed to this leadership role after our 2022 Convention. We will hear reports from our National Secretary-Treasurer, Pierrick Choinière-Lapointe, as well as reports from Region 1 and Region 2.

Our keynote speaker of the day is Fabrice Vil. Fabrice is a lawyer, columnist for La Presse, a speaker and facilitator of corporate workshops, and a basketball

coach. In 2011, he founded Pour 3 Points, an organization that transforms sports coaches into life coaches to support young people, particularly from disadvantaged communities. He has been one of Quebec's most influential voices on the issue of equal opportunity and has also been an advocate speaking out against gun violence and racism.

Also addressing delegates today will be Melissa Dvorak, President of the Winnipeg Labour Council. Prior to being elected to the role in 2019, Melissa was president of the Manitoba General Employees' Union Local 369.



FABRICE VIL

## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS





# WHAT DOES BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESSES MEAN?

The story of COPE SEPB is one of self-determination. It is a story of passion, teamwork, and progress. In June 2004, leaders from across Canada—from BC to Quebec—gathered in Florida at the OPEIU Convention with the goal to declare our autonomy from the American-run union, OPEIU. That bold moment gave rise to COPE SEPB as we know it today.

From that first major success, across the country our locals in all four regions have done the hard work of supporting our members, raising workplace standards, and fighting for progressive change for our members and the communities that they live in.

We have also continued to modernize—especially since our 2022 Convention in Vancouver—by becoming a leader in the labour movement in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We changed our structure to ensure that voices from those who have typically been marginalized now have a seat at the table. This change in our structure ensures that marginalized voices are included, heard and valued across our entire union.

Our national union’s structure exists to support growth and solidarity, while allowing locals to retain autonomy to make decisions that best serve their members. This balance has defined our success—and it’s how we’ll continue to build on it. This is the story of our union.

## BUILDING BELONGING

### COPE SEPB Convention 2025 Equity Caucus Meetings.

Before Convention got into high-gear COPE SEPB hosted a series of equity caucus meetings provide a vital space for equity-deserving members to connect, build community, and raise the issues that matter most. These gatherings reflect our union’s deep commitment to inclusion and the belief that all voices must be heard in shaping our shared future.

Members from equity-deserving groups—including 2SLGBTQIA+ workers, Indigenous workers (First Nations, Métis, Inuit), racialized workers, women and gender diverse people, workers living with a disability, and young workers (35 years and younger)—came together to share stories, build solidarity, and help shape our priorities.

We are proud to hold space for these conversations at Convention. This is how we build belonging. This is how we build power. And this is how we build on our successes.



## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

