

# CUPE members respond

**National Post** Published: Friday, March 06, 2009

Re: CUPE National: 'Small Number' Of Members Support Anti-Israel Motion, letter to the editor from Paul Moist, CUPE national president, Feb. 25.

Recently, CUPE members from the university sector voted overwhelmingly to pass a motion that calls for the right to an education for Palestinians. The motion also speaks to sourcing whether Ontario universities are conducting research linked to the Israeli military and to the need for education on campus about the occupation of Palestine.

This motion was endorsed by a delegated body of 28 local unions from the Ontario university sector, representing 27,000 members. Every political party and union in Canada uses a delegated convention to make decisions. CUPE is no different. Criticism that a democratic process was not used is simply not credible.

We attended the conference when the motion was passed and will defend the right of our union and our members to pass motions that stand up for human rights and the right to education. We will also continue to defend our right to freedom of speech and political views, despite the efforts by some to repress and misrepresent our union's voices. Our support for Palestinians and the right of our union as a democratic organization to engage in principled policy decisions against occupations and war are unequivocal.

Dan Crowe, Denise Hammond, Ajamu Nangwaya and Graham Potts, members of the Ontario University Workers Committee of CUPE and CUPE Ontario executive board.

© 2008 The National Post Company.