

CUPE not a model of democracy

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Re: CUPE Members Respond, letter to the editor, March 6.

The executive of CUPE, as evidenced by its letter, actually have little understanding of democracy. Yes, political parties use a delegated convention to make some policy decisions, but there is one big difference between them and CUPE: party members can resign if they find the policies unacceptable. My CUPE membership is mandated by my position as a university faculty member. If the CUPE executive decides to support free access to child pornography, for example, there is nothing I can do to avoid being associated with its decision.

The process whereby Sid Ryan and his cronies get elected is carefully orchestrated to be as inconvenient as possible for most members. Similarly, few CUPE members have the time or wherewithal to attend the conferences where policies are made. Should Mr. Ryan and his executive care to submit their future to a genuine vote of the membership at large, I suspect they would very quickly find out the true meaning of democracy, and they wouldn't like it at all.

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