

Canadian Office & Professional Employees' Union, Local 378

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Unionists Excited as New Canadian Union Formed

Excitement was in the room as members of the newly formed Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE) met together today to see the Executive Board of their independent Canadian union sworn in on Monday.

Monday June 21 will go down as an historic day as Canadian delegates watched Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Secretary-Treasurer Hassan Yussouf bring greetings and congratulations from the CLC and unions across Canada to the new union following its separation from the U.S.-based OPEIU. He also conducted the swearing-in of the COPE Canadian Executive Board.

COPE delegates reviewed in detail the interim constitution adopted by the Canadian Executive Board and provided significant input for changes that will enhance and promote the principles of democracy.

The Constitution will be circulated to all locals for further feedback and suggestions by the members prior to the first COPE Canadian Convention later this year. At that Convention the new Constitution will be debated and finalized.

Canadian delegates in Florida are meeting in a separate hotel from the OPEIU after advising the International that they would not be attending their Convention.

In addition to providing input for the new Constitution, delegates are attending workshops and educational sessions that will be of benefit to Canadian members. A session was also held to develop an interim budget.

The delegates also heard from COPE President Jerri New, also President of COPE Local 378 and Secretary-Treasurer Serge Cadieux, director of the Quebec wing of COPE, SEPB.