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**Report For
CUPE Local 997 Regular General Meeting – May 5, 2007**

**Delegates Report – CUPE – OSSTF United For Fair Funding
February 21 – 22 07 – Renaissance Hotel, Toronto**

CUPE 997 Delegates: Lynn Raback, Herb Pounder, Rob Parish, Shelley Godfrey, Gail Manetta, Bill Campbell, Debbie Gillan, Fiona Williams.

Nearly 300 OSSTF and CUPE school board sector members, leadership and staff, met in Toronto for a symposium focused on how education underfunding and a flawed provincial funding model adversely impact school support workers and the quality of education for students.

Under a banner that read, 'United for Fair Funding,' CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan and Frank Ventresca, chair of the CUPE Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee (OSBCC), joined their OSSTF counterparts in highlighting common issues that affect nearly 60,000 school board support workers province-wide.

CUPE represents 50,000 and OSSTF nearly 10,000 school board staff employed as administrative, technical, clerical, custodial, maintenance workers and educational assistants at Ontario's 72 school boards.

The guest speakers were David Christopherson, the NDP MP for Hamilton Centre and Hugh MacKenzie, economist widely known for his work with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Participants of occupational workshops identified key education funding flaws. Delegates quickly realized that the problems faced by all support staff unions were identical and that collaboration in the struggle was the only viable course for the future. The symposium created a large network of e-mail contacts and the communication will continue.

CUPE and OSSTF school board workers have given their respective provincial leadership a resounding mandate to work together to secure fair provincial funding for school support services.

"Be it resolved the United For Fair Funding Report be received."

General Meetings/06 07//May 5 07/United For Fair Funding Report