

BCNU Convention 2008 Report

On February 25, 26 and 27th, delegates, observers and alternates selected by our region attended the 27th annual BCNU convention from Shaughnessy Heights. Here are some comments.

From the first day,

- ◆ If this is your first time attending is convention what you expected? If you have gone before, what made you want to attend again?
- ◆ What are your impressions for this year?

This is my first time attending, it has been very informative so far. I'm not sure what to expect from convention but I felt reassured by having many people trying to affect change. Thanks for this great opportunity. There were 2 comments that stood out for me, "Stop normalizing the abnormal" and "Silence means there is nothing wrong", as I believe this applies to many of us and it is my hope that these words will affect other nurses as it did me – Lesca

This is my 2nd time to convention. I found it very informative and learned lots. It's a great eye opener. Really get a chance to learn what the union does and what's going on. It's a great environment to be a part of. Impressions for this year; so far so good, and it is nice to have some downtime as we were really busy last year.

I really enjoy the whole convention experience, and each year there are more layers of experiences – education, networking, re-charging, being lifted up and lifting others. It is about power; last year the power of one, this year the power to lead. Convention allows me to plug into the power grid – to give and to get! - Sylta

Wow! This is my fourth or fifth convention. Each unique, what I love about each of them is the re-energizing experience it infuses into us. Before I had been to bargaining/convention, I took my wages and benefit package for granted. Now that I am only slightly more educated I feel privileged to be a part of this union and to have seen behind the scenes process that has let to those same good wages and benefits! We are led by an incredible, brilliant and passionate group of men and women. Thank-you for allowing me this experience this once again. – Marilyn

It is my first time attending convention. It is informative and inspirational. – Angela

I have been to convention before. Solid, updated, informed network of nursing information that inspires us each to make a difference! Thank you, I love convention for all the above reasons to help us remember what is important. - Maddy

Repeat attendance to the convention. I have feelings of sense of solidarity with all BC regions. Receiving financial reports to know where our dues have gone or will go to and hope other members who complain about giving union dues to attend. I feel great to be part of a powerful union. It is also a fun time, like a retreat!

This is my first time at convention. It has been very informative so far, I had no idea what to expect. There's definitely more people here than I expected. BCNU is "bigger" as an organization than I thought it was. I am learning a lot. – Yang

This is my first time at convention. I am really enjoying convention and I am learning a lot. I had no idea there would be so many nurses attending. It's great to meet nurses from all the different regions throughout the province. I feel very fortunate to have been chosen to attend. – Kathleen.

Returnee to convention. I would like to come back again – but I hope in the next year if we will have inspirational guest speakers like last year. This year there's more resolutions from the union and I am more aware of what the union achieved for Bill 29.

Repeat attendee. Kept informed of what is happening with what the progress of the different committees who work very hard! Very informative.

I have been to convention several times because of my past involvement with the BC Nurses education fund. It was very enjoyable having less responsibility this time. I completely enjoy being with other nurses in such an uplifting and empowering situation. I was impressed by several speakers, here are some quotes,

"They didn't give us anything we didn't fight for. If you don't fight for it everyday you will lose it." Jim Sinclair, BC Federation of Labour

"Don't let the public health care system fall to the inadequacies and the push from a private system who wants to seize the profits." Debra McPherson, BCNU

"Is our aim so high that we will miss it? If we aim too low you get what you deserve. Leadership is action, not position." Linda Silas, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

View clips of convention at <http://www.workingtv.com/bcnu2008convention.html>