



To all CUPE 1281 members and the broader community;

CUPE 1281 stands in solidarity with the labour community to resist oppression in all of its forms. We work to build a united moment of workers and to fight for and defend human rights, safe working conditions, and good jobs for all.

The events of October 7th and those that have followed have overwhelmed us with shock, grief and horror. Each human life is valuable and we believe that any use of violence against non-combatants to achieve political goals is wrong.

We grieve with our union family, who continue to be deeply and personally affected by these events. We acknowledge that the acts committed by members of Hamas that day were profoundly violent and that at the same time the ongoing response of the Israeli government is cruel and will not lead to peace.

Recognizing the marked power imbalance between the oppressed Palestinians of Gaza and the Israeli government, CUPE 1281 will remain committed to the right of all Indigenous and colonized peoples to land, dignity, and self-determination. It is our position that the Palestinian people of Gaza hold that right inalienably and that the destruction of their bodies and homes, and their forced evacuation, constitutes a form of ethnic cleansing.

We demand that the Canadian Federal Government call for an immediate ceasefire and the end of any blockade of humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine.

We call on other union members across Canada to endorse and enact the recommendations from the coalition of Palestinian Trade Unions outlined on [Progressive.International](https://www.progressiveinternational.org/)

1. To refuse to build weapons destined for Israel
2. To refuse to transport weapons to Israel
3. To pass motions in their trade union to this effect
4. To take action against complicit companies involved in implementing Israel's illegal siege, especially if they have contracts with your institution
5. To pressure the Canadian government to stop all military aid to Israel

Further, CUPE 1281 will not be intimidated by any attack made on our members - verbal, written, or physical - for expressing our commitment to alienable principles of equity and human rights. We will mobilize our collective power as a Local to ensure that 1281 workers and members are not threatened or harmed by any person or organization that objects to statements that their Employer or that we as a Local make, and we will not tolerate Islamophobic or anti-Semitic harassment or bullying of our members.

We stand in solidarity with all people who hope for an end to the ongoing violence and reiterate our calls for a just and peaceful future for the people of Palestine and the people of Israel.

And we commit to being there in its aftermath.

In Solidarity,
The Executive of CUPE 1281