

# SHOOTING MY CUFFS #9, December 2023

Another newsletter about the Canadian Unity Fan Fund

From Garth Spencer  
6960 Doman Street  
Vancouver, BC CANADA V5S 3H7  
email [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com).

## Where to Go?

We had better start considering when and where the next Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate should go, even before soliciting nominees. I have made up a 2024 Canadian convention list, but can you tell me about any other coming Canadian conventions coming up in 2024?

## My Draft Convention List

February 17-19, 2024, [Fan Expo Vancouver 2024](#), Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC

March 7-10, 2024: [Vancoufur](#), Furry convention, Richmond, BC

March 15-17, 2024: [Toronto Comicon 2024](#), Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON

March 22-24, 2024, [Hotlead 2024](#), Best Western Plus The Arden Park Hotel, Stratford, ON

April 6, 2024, [Collingwood ComiCon 2024](#), Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63, Collingwood, ON

April 13, 2024, [Napanee ComiCon 2024](#), Strathcona Paper Centre, Napanee, ON

April 19-21, 2024: [Sci-Fi On the Rock](#), Newfoundland's premiere science fiction & fantasy event., St Johns, NL

April 25-28, 2024: [Calgary Expo 2024](#), Stampede Park, Calgary, AB

May 17-19, 2024: [Keycon 40](#), Winnipeg, MB: [keycon.org](http://keycon.org)

May 24-26, 2024, [Anime North 2024](#), Toronto Congress Center / Delta Hotels by Marriott Toronto Airport & Conference Centre, Toronto, ON

July 18-21, 2024: [Fur-Eh!](#), A Uniquely Canadian Celebration of Anthropomorphics, Edmonton, AB

August 16-18, 2024: [When Words Collide 2024 - Alexandra Writers' Centre](#) Calgary, AB

August 17, 2024, [Collingwood ComiCon 2024](#), Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63, Collingwood, ON

TBA 2024: [TFcon \(Transformers\)](#), The world's largest fan-run Transformers convention, Toronto, ON

October 20-22, 2024: [Congrès Boréal | Site officiel | page d'accueil \(congresboreal.ca\)](#), Montreal,

November 1-3, 2024: [Can\\*Con 2024](#), Ottawa, ON: <https://can-con.org>

November 8-10, 2024: [Hal-Con Sci-Fi & Fantasy Convention | Hal-Con](#), Halifax, NS

## **CUFF Nomination and Voting Procedure**

It is not too early, I think, to solicit nominations for the 2024 CUFF delegate.

A CUFF *application* should include:

- your fannish bio
- How you hope to make the trip beneficial for yourself, and for the Canadian fan community
- 3 western supporters and 3 eastern supporters

*Nominating Phase:* In order to be nominated for the CUFF this year, an application (see further info below) plus emails from the six nominators must be submitted by February 14, 2024 to the CUFF administrator, Garth Spencer. (I may have to extend this deadline.)

As well, we ask for a bond of \$20 CAD from each applicant, which will be added to the CUFF funds. This (and all donations) can be sent via either PayPal or Interac e-transfer to the CUFF administrator at the above email address. (If you'd like to pay another way, email the CUFF administrator to negotiate.)

So, in order to be nominated for the CUFF this year an emailed application must be submitted by February 14, 2024 to the CUFF administrator plus a bond of \$20. It should contain a brief fan-related bio and how you hope to make this trip beneficial for you and the Canadian fan community. The application must have a minimum of three fan supporters from the east and three in the west (six total). (The Manitoba/Ontario border separates east and west.)

If we have more than one applicant, voting will be open 4+ months pre-con and close 3+ months pre-con, in order to give the successful candidate enough time to work with convention programming and to schedule their visit.

Any Canadian fan or pro may individually nominate a fan to be this year's CUFF delegate. Just email the CUFF administrator from your personal email, saying briefly why you're nominating that fan.

If you (the nominator) are not likely to be known to the current fund administrator the CUFF administrator, please give the name and contact info for a fan who is likely to be well known and can confirm you are an active fan, or links to information that will make your involvement in fandom clear. The same process will hold true for voting.

*Election Phase:* Voting, when open, will be open to anyone who has been active in Canadian fandom for two years or more. Voters are urged to make a donation to the fund of at least \$5.00 to assist with the candidate's expenses. Votes can be sent to the CUFF administrator.

What a Delegate Does ~~What's In It for a Convention~~: A CUFF delegate can offer information on writers' groups and events, as well as fandoms and fan activities in his or her area, to compare and contrast with the convention's region. The delegate could also offer background on fan funds in general, and CUFF in particular, and hold an auction for CUFF fundraising, focusing on fanzines.

There is also scope to compare and contrast science fiction and fandom, past and present. Fan funds such as CUFF were conceived in the fandom of half a century ago, and since we have significantly different fandoms today, fan funds can serve different purposes now. Has convention programming touched on changes in SF themes and concerns over the last half-century? Have changes in SF writing, or broadcast and screen productions, related to changes among SF readers (and viewers), and SF fandoms?

One of the regular features of CUFF is a Turkey Reading, in which the delegate and some volunteers read some really *baaaad* - yet published! - science fiction and fantasy, until some of the audience place bids for the reading to stop. Then other audience members can place competing bids for the reading to go on, if it's entertainingly bad enough. Some members of the audience can be selected to act out the scenes being read, just to add further entertainment. (We have a collection of *baaaad* science fiction and fantasy that still made it into publication, some of it by well-known writers, not all of it from the 1970s and 1980s.)

### **Information Links:**

**The 2023 CUFF trip report** is now posted at [\(1\) Canadian Unity Fan Fund \(CUFF\) | Facebook](#).

The updated, current list of fannish publications for fundraising is also posted at [\(1\) Canadian Unity Fan Fund \(CUFF\) | Facebook](#).

CUFF can accept payments in person, by cheque, or by money order to: Garth Spencer, 6960 Doman Street, Vancouver, BC V5S 3H7, or by e-transfer / Paypal to [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com).

For more information about CUFF, follow this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6119342503/>.

More of the chronology (and the several delegates' trip reports) can be found at <https://www.cdnsfzinearchive.org/cuff-canadian-unity-fan-fund/cuff-trip-reports/>.

You can also learn about other fan funds at this link:  
[https://fancyclopedia.org/Fan\\_Funds](https://fancyclopedia.org/Fan_Funds).