



Shoptalk



November/December 2025

School District #43 (Coquitlam) / Coquitlam Public Library /
Transdev Fraser Valley /
Children's House Montessori Pre-School

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Saturday January 13th, 2026—9:00 am
VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON

Happy Holidays, Local 561 Members,

With all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I hope you are able to spend quality time with family and friends to recharge and relax. We will have just completed our by-election for our next president, and I hope you all took the time to participate and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Our local continues to work hard bargaining with all three units. The School District Bargaining Team has put in many hours of hard work preparing proposals based on the survey and feedback from our membership. Our bargaining concepts that were approved by members at the SD43 Unit Meeting will help guide the Committee on getting the best deal possible in the New Year.

The Transdev Committee has met to develop its strategic plan and has also received proposals from members. A survey will be sent out on January 9, with the survey closing on January 20.

The Library Committee will also be sending out a survey soon and will be requesting proposals from members in the new year.

I would like to give a special shout-out to the social committee for another successful children's Christmas party hosted at Poco Bowl in Port Coquitlam.

Lastly, I want to thank the local for giving me the honor of serving and working on behalf of all members as president. As we move forward, it is important that we support our next leader in this role. It is through solidarity that we find our strength.

Best wishes,

Mike Myers
President

CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Executive Shop Steward

Mike Myers
Darin Nielsen
Jill Allen
Wendy Meston
Deborah Monkman

Member At Large
Member At Large
Member At Large
Member At Large
Member At Large

Shamus Halvorsen (SD #43)
Karin Leathwood (SD #43)
Donna MacMurchy (Library)
Carol Archibald (Transdev)
Shayna McCormack (Diversity)

CUPE Local 561 Children's Christmas Party!



Point of Clarification – Combining Meal and Rest Periods

Under Article 5.5, Meal and Rest Periods, Section B of the collective agreement:

B. Meal & Rest Periods

Employees who work more than two (2) hours and up to six (6) hours shall be permitted a fifteen (15) minute rest period in each half of their shift. It is further understood that such periods shall be taken at times that will cause the least possible interference with the work in which the employee is engaged; however, the rest periods will not be scheduled so they are directly attached to the beginning or the end of the employee's scheduled work day. With Administrator/exempt staff supervisor approval, an employee may combine their meal period and one (1) rest period.

Please contact the Union office if your Admin/Exempt Supervisor is scheduling the combined breaks and/or rest period.

However, this provision **does not grant Administration or exempt supervisors the authority to require or direct** an employee to combine their meal and rest periods. While a supervisor may ask if an employee wishes to combine these breaks, the decision rests solely with the employee, as clearly outlined in the collective agreement.

REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS:

If you have not already done so, please send your
PERSONAL email

to the union office to be kept up to date on the latest news.
Email to: cupe561@cupe561.ca

If you have provided your email and are not receiving updates, please contact the Union office.

Employer emails will not be accepted.



Questions and Answers

Q: If as an EA, the site I am at, loses hours and I am moved to another position, mid-year transfer, can I post on another position throughout the year?

A: The only way that you can take a posting is if you have a “free move”. That is when you have taken your first permanent position, then you are able to do 1 lateral move. You will be given an opportunity in June for bumping.

Q: I have been off work ill and received a phone call for Desjardins. Should I be connecting with them?

A: Yes, you should. The PEBT (Public Education Benefits Trust Fund) provides joint early intervention service (JEIS) and long term disability (LTD) program. JEIS is a confidential program supported by the School District and the Union and is intended to complement the LTD benefit plan and facilitate a return to work. Many members have not been completing the paperwork as requested. Please make sure to fill out the paperwork to avoid missing deadlines. This also applies to members who are on a WorkSafe claim.

Q: As an EA working at a high school, can I take paid vacation days during semester break when students are not present?

A: No. Even though students are not in attendance, the school remains in session during semester turnaround, so EAs are not permitted to take vacation during this time .

SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Sympathy

Ann Johannes

Get well wishes

Wanda Ferrato

November

Peter Naugler
Jason Washington
Agata Zgorzelska

RETIREMENTS

December

Jerry Ong
Tina Tang

Congratulations



School District 43

Leila Abaei, CAS LISW
Prachi Adya, CAS LISW
Faride Ahmadi, CAS LISW
Chelsey Alexander, EA
Isabelita Ancog, CAS EA
Anwar Asheer, CAS EA
Maame Assensoh-Bediako, CAS, EA
Tagra Ave, CAS LISW
Marjaneh Azarinfar, EA
Fateme Bahmanifathabadi, EA
Maral Balarostaghi, CAS LISW
Seyed Reza Bashiri, CAS EA
Sharon Basra, CAS EA
Christine Bordelay, CAS NHA
Janet Brito, CAS NHA
Ruzica Brkic, NHA
Danielle Lauren Bryant, CAS NHA
Pamela Burns, CAS EA
Celso Castres, Carpenter
Myche Castro, CAS NHA
Pik Kwan Chan, CAS EA
Sonia Puschpanthan, CAS EA
Vaidehi Chaudhari, CAS NHA
Winnie Hiu Tung Cheung, NHA
Eunhee Choi, CAS LISW

Transdev

Verma Dharm, Operator
Amrat Virk, Operator

Initiations

Christines Codimos-Launio, Cler. 2
Ellen Condor, CAS EA
Julie Delahooke, CAS EA
Stephanie Dhillon, CAS Strong Start
Kaitlin D'Souza, CAS EA
Vanessa Dumont, NHA
Jessica Ellam, NHA
Kevin Farrell, EA
Ungamandadige Fernando, CAS LISW
Katlyn Gibson, CAS EA
Mandeep Kaur Gill, Cas EA
Josselin Gomez, NHA
Zahra Hendi, Cas NHA
Wai Shan Hsiao, CAS Cler. 2
Hanin Ismael Ismael, CAS EA
Mohadeseh Jafarzadeh, CAS EA
Amreen Jessa, CAS LISW
Dawoon Jung, CAS LISW
Siyu Jung, CAS EA
Kiavash Karimipour, CAS Sec. Runner
Ekreet Kaur, Cas EA
Poonam Kaur, Buyer 1
Parsa Kazemi, NHA
Avneet Khosa, Cas EA
Jee-Hae Kim, CAS EA
Jiaxin Zhou, CAS EA
Piratheepa Kodeeswaran, CAS EA
Judyta Kuse, NHA
Jeong Hoon Lee, IT
Syeon Lee, CAS EA
Jenny Morgan, CAS Cler. 2
Niusha Nabae, CAS EA
Melody Nejad, CAS Cler. 2
Philip Ngo, IT
Janis Nicholas, EA
Shannon Oates, CAS EA
Shova Paudei, EA
Rajwinder Gill, EA
Lisa Reaveley, NHA
Kiranpreet Saharan, CAS EA
Gulan Hama Salih, CAS LISW
Malsiri Sandhu, EA
Leslie Sarginson, CAS Sec.
Joanna Serafin, CAS NHA
Darren Smalley, CAS—Cook 1
Mia Sorensen, CAS Cler. 2
Paula Sorondo, CAS LISW
Atefah Taghavian, CAS EA
Preeya Tailor, EA
Man Kuen Tsang, CAS LISW
Melissa Anne Young, School Meals
Mina Ziae, NHA

Welcome