



# 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](mailto: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 .

Have a question you would like to see in ShopTalk?

# 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*

## Initiations

### 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  
Fatemeh 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

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  
Seyeon Lee, CAS EA  
Jenny Morgan, CAS Cler. 2  
Niusha Nabaee, 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  
Atefeh Taghavian, CAS EA  
Preeya Tailor, EA  
Man Kuen Tsang, CAS LISW  
Melissa Anne Young, School Meals  
Mina Ziaei, NHA

### Transdev

Verma Dharm, Operator  
Amrat Virk, Operator

Sidhant Dogra, Disp./Scheduler

Manpreet Dosanjh, Operator

*Welcome*

