



Shoptalk



September/October 2026

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 12, 2026—9:00 am
Hybrid Meeting Format

Greetings 561 members,

Welcome back 🌿❤️

We've put our flip-flops away, said goodbye to our last sunset at the beach, locked up the cabins, and made those last summer memories. Most importantly, we hope you took some well-deserved time for yourselves and created new memories with family and friends.

We're heading into the new year with a lot to be proud of. We successfully ratified our new Collective Agreement, and we want to recognize and thank our Bargaining Committee—Shamus Halvorsen, Irene Shoemaker, Jill Allen, and Ari Silver—for all their hard work and dedication.

We also still have our Labour Market Adjustments coming this fall, and our bargaining units are in the middle of finalizing their collective agreements. There is lots happening within CUPE Local 561!

As we move into a new year, we're excited about the changes ahead and about continuing to move our Local in a new and exciting direction. We're looking forward to growing the number of education opportunities available to our members, expanding our programs, and creating more opportunities for everyone to get involved.

We also have some exciting events planned for both children and adults, with our Christmas events, and we can't wait to share those with you in the months ahead.

As you reconnect with your colleagues and perhaps meet some new ones, take a moment to say hello to someone you don't know. Try something new. Sign up for an education opportunity. Expand your horizons. You never know what new experience or connection may come from it!

We look forward to seeing you, hearing from you, and continuing to build our Union together.

Thank you for everything you do for our members and for our Union.

Here's to a great new year ahead! ❤️🌿

In Solidarity,

Lisa Mayoh
President

CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Executive Shop Steward

Lisa Mayoh
Ari Silver
Jill Allen
Wendy Meston
TBD

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

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



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 you are not receiving updates, please contact the office.

Questions and Answers

Q: Can I use a personal leave day immediately before or after my vacation? ?

A: Yes, you can use your personal days before and after your vacation. However, they do need to be approved by your administrator. If you give reasonable notice and have a conversation with your principle, they are usually understanding.

Q: How long can I take education leave?

A: You can take leave for up to one year to attend a recognized post-secondary or Trade school. Provided you have been employed with the School District for (5) consecutive Years or provided five (5) years have elapsed since the employee's return to work from a previously approved educational leave. **Such leave shall be requested in writing no later than two months prior to the requested start date of the leave.**

Have a question you would like to see in ShopTalk?
Send it to CUPE561@CUPE561.ca

Did you know....

Per our Collective Agreement:

6.12: Transportation Allowance

A.

1. Employees designated by the Superintendent of Schools or their designate, who are required to use their own vehicles to carry out their normal assignment, shall receive a basic travel allowance of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars per month in addition to the mileage indicated below.

2. The job posting shall indicate "business use of personal vehicle required".

3. To receive the aforementioned allowance, employees may be required annually to file proof of purchase of business insurance as determined by the employer based on insurance regulations.

B. It is agreed and understood that no employee shall be required to transport or haul in their vehicle any materials or goods on behalf of the Board. Employees who, on a voluntary basis, carry equipment/supplies in a private vehicle shall receive, upon application and approval by the Superintendent or designate, an allowance of twenty \$20.00 dollars per month when such cartage is required two (2) or more days per week.

C. Employees designated in A above, or any other employee requested and agreeable to use their vehicle on behalf of the Board shall receive payment for mileage at the rate of fifty-two (52) cents per kilometer.

2026/2027 General Meeting Dates

May 9th, 2026 – Saturday Hybrid

June 13th, 2026 – In person only with BBQ following

September 12th, 2026 – Saturday Hybrid

October 8th, 2026 – Thursday evening at 4:30pm

November 7th, 2026 – Saturday Hybrid

December 10th, 2026 - Thursday evening at 4:30pm

January 9th, 2027 – Saturday Hybrid

February 11th, 2027 - Thursday evening at 4:30pm

March 6th, 2027 – Saturday Hybrid

April 8th, 2027 - Thursday evening at 4:30pm

May 8th, 2027 – Saturday Hybrid

June 10th, 2027 – Thursday evening at 4:30pm

June 12th, 2027 – BBQ only

SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Sympathy Cards:

Ram Family
John Salisbury
Andrew Carey
Jennifer Corbett

Congratulations Cards:

Honey Verma

RETIREMENTS

June:

Cheryl Duke
Diana Jekova
Howard Lee
Marjorie Mcquarrie
Simon Ng
Linda Sayer
Leah Suttis

July

Darilynn Butler
Jack Choules
Florence Gordon

August

David Leblance
Pamela Stephen

Congratulations

Initiations

School District 43

Shafaq Aamer (EA)
Sepideh Abtahi
Kate Ayles
Joel Bahni (CAS Caretaker)
Kyungyoung Baek
Katie Bin (LISW)
Peter Butileng (CAS Caretaker)
Alexis Carter
Soo Kyung Chon (EA)
Najwa Chehade (EA)
Soo Kyung Chon (EA)
Marisa Ciulla (EA)
Tiffani DeForest
Adele Doel-Chan (EA)
Najwa Chehade (EA)
Christina Fasciglione
Nasrin Fathripoor (LISW)
Courtenay Foster (EA)

Sowjanya Gudapati (EA)
Chloe He (EA)
Alyssa Higgins (EA)
Marie Jayawardana
Saebom Johnson (EA)
Minju Kim (LISW)
Angela Liu (EA)
Samantha Luniw (EA)
Elizabeth McEachern (EA)
Nathan Ma (EA)
Atefeh Mofidi (LISW)
Lucia Moore
Rhys Riebesehl (EA)
Nasra Said (EA)
Xiadan Shao
Jade Teigen (LISW)
Laurel Terrio
Emily Walkosz (EA)

Rachel White (EA)
Nadine Williams (EA)
Bradley Wong (LISW)

Coquitlam Public Library

- None at this time

Transdev

- None at this time