



September October 2025

# Shoptalk

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



## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 18th, 2025—9:00am  
On Zoom

Greetings CUPE Local 561 Members,

I hope everyone had a great summer and had the chance to enjoy time with family, friends, and some well-deserved relaxation.

As we head into a busy fall, we are hard at work preparing for bargaining with three of our four bargaining units, with the support of CUPE National. SD43 is well underway — the Committee has already done a great deal of work and will continue meeting with the employer throughout the fall. The Coquitlam Public Library (CPL) Committee has also begun its work and will be sending out surveys to members before winter. I want to sincerely thank everyone on all of our Bargaining Committees for their hard work and dedication. This is important work, and I'm energized by the passion I see from all involved.

As the new school year kicks off, I know we're all excited for another impactful year of supporting students in the unique and essential ways only CUPE can. I also want to recognize our Caretakers for the incredible job they did with summer cleaning, as they do every year. One of my favorite parts of the new school year is walking into our schools and seeing those clean, shiny floors—it's always a great way to start fresh.

Finally, a big thank-you to our Social Committee for organizing a fantastic summer BBQ. It was wonderful to see members from different units coming together and having a great time.

Let's carry this positive energy forward into the year ahead!

On behalf of the CUPE 561 Executive, we wish everyone an amazing and successful fall season!

In Solidarity,

Mike Myers

### CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	<b>Mike Myers</b>	Member At Large	<b>Shamus Halvorsen</b> (SD #43)
Vice-President	<b>Darin Nielsen</b>	Member At Large	<b>Karin Leathwood</b> (SD #43)
Recording Secretary	<b>Jill Allen</b>	Member At Large	<b>Donna MacMurchy</b> (Library)
Treasurer	<b>Wendy Meston</b>	Member At Large	<b>Carol Archibald</b> (Transdev)
Executive Shop Steward	<b>Deborah Monkman</b>	Member At Large	<b>Shayna McCormack</b> (Diversity)

# Questions and Answers

## SD43

- Q.** I am a Caretaker in SD43. If I am on vacation and become ill, can I change my vacation absence to an illness?
- A.** Yes, as per article 6.1., you can change your vacation absence to ill. You must notify your Manager at the time the need arises, and may be required to provide a medical note.
- Q:** I am a permanent Secretary 2 currently in a temporary position. Can I post into another temporary position if it is in a different classification?
- A:** The answer is no. Article 2.4B states that if you post into a temporary position, you must remain in that posting until the return of the absent employee. You can however get out of a temporary position if you post into another “permanent” position.

## Coquitlam Library

- Q.** I’m a library worker at the City Centre location. Given the unsafe situations we may find ourselves in with violent or inappropriate conduct from patrons, how can we keep ourselves safe?
- A.** Your concerns are absolutely validated, and the Union is working hard to address these concerns. Through the grievance process, we are working with the Employer to ensure our members are not put into dangerous situations. Currently the Employer is working on creating a new Security/Page classification to work at the City Centre location. Once the class spec is completed, the Union will review it before we agree to it. In the meantime, Employees have the right to refuse unsafe work as per Worksafe BC. Please contact your shop

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This federal statutory holiday was created through [legislative amendments](#) made by Parliament.

### Wear orange

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30.

[Orange Shirt Day](#) is a commemorative day led by Indigenous communities to raise awareness about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools on children, families, and communities. It honours Indigenous children who were lost in the residential school system.

The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced. This day reminds us that **“Every Child Matters”**.



On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.



Have you changed your address or phone number?  
Please contact the union to update your information.

Email: [cupe561@cupe561.com](mailto:cupe561@cupe561.com)

Call: 604 936 4545

## JEIS/PEBT Q and A

### 1.: What is JEIS?

JEIS (Joint Early Intervention Service) is an integrated part of the Core Long Term Disability benefit provided to SD43 CUPE employees with benefits.

### 2. How does JEIS work?

When a CUPE SD43 member first becomes ill or injured, a Health Care Management Specialist (HCMS) from Desjardins Insurance contacts you. Upon contact the HCMS will provide information to you about the program and they also determine from information received from your conversation whether additional follow-up is required. If a RTW (return to work) is near in the future, then the HCMS will follow up to ensure that your RTW was/is successful. If RTW is not imminent the HCMS sends you out a JEIS package to complete.

### 3. What is included in the JEIS package?

- letter explaining the JEIS program
- attending physician's statement to be completed by CUPE member's doctor
- authorization forms (medical, ICBC, WorksafeBC)

### Must I participate in the program?

All CUPE SD43 employees with benefits who are on a medical absence must participate. Per CUPE CA (Collective Agreement) – “eligibility for sick leave or indemnity payments requires participation in the JEIS according to the JEIS policies of the PEPT. If an employee chooses not to participate their sick bank could be revoked”

### Where can I find information on PEPT (Public Education Benefits Trust)?

Website: <https://www.pebt.ca/>



## 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 and to vote in elections.

**Email to: [cupe561@cupe561.ca](mailto:cupe561@cupe561.ca)**

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



**1-800-663-1142**

TTY: 1-888-384-1152

International (Call collect):  
604-689-1717

[HomeWeb.ca](http://HomeWeb.ca)

Reminder to all School District employees, you have access to the EFAP program—Homewood Health.

**Employee and Family Assistance Program**

Coaching | Counselling | Support

Confidential | Available anytime

## *SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION*

### *Fruit Basket*

Cheryl Greene (SD43)  
 Arlie Hintz (Transdev)  
 Rishi Ram (SD43)  
 Deanne Serres Salewich (CPL)  
 Arandeep Sangha (Transdev)  
 Debbie Van Veen (SD43)

### *Congratulation*

Mallorie Sander (SD43)

### *Get Well*

Jesse Ware (Transdev)

### *Sympathy Cards*

Anita Belliveau (SD43)  
 Mandeep Buttar  
 Samantha & Jeff Gillis (SD43)  
 Margaret Manyk (CPL)  
 Gorett Page (SD43)  
 Rhona Porcellato (CPL)  
 Adrian Schat (Transdev)

## *Retirements*

### **June**

Christopher Caverly  
 Joyce Donald  
 Coreen Knudsen  
 Yvonne Martin  
 Collen Schick  
 Alanna Waunch  
 Tammy Webster

### **July**

Yanan Wang

### **August**

Gail Bogren  
 Wendy Cheng

*Congratulations!*

## **Initiations**

### **School District 43**

Anahita Arfa (LISW)  
 Man Yin (Janet) Cheng (EA)  
 Ayaka Furuichi (CAS)  
 Miran Jin (EA)  
 Haima Lia (EA)  
 Isabel Raymond (EA/LISW)  
 Zifei Zhao (CAS)

### **Transdev**

Gurpreet Bal (Operator)  
 Shaminder Harry (Operator)  
 Gurpreet Sangha (Operator)  
 Jatinder Pal Singh (Operator)

Vanessa Bainbridge (CAS)  
 Minako Dallas (EA)  
 Brendan Gregg (EA)  
 Sungeun (Yuna) Kook (EA)  
 Laura Marko (CAS)  
 Catherine Wong (CAS)

Gary Crawford (Operator)  
 Pratap Jattana (Operator)  
 Aslam Shahid (Operator)  
 Karanbir Singh (Dispatch)

*Welcome*

Amy Chang (LISW)  
 Nicolette Fontana (CL)  
 Else Jespersen (LISW)  
 Minjung Lee (CAS)  
 Cedric Quioco (CAS)  
 Na Yuan (EA)

Hardip Gill (Operator)  
 Rupinder Kaur (Operator)  
 Ishwinder Singh (Operator)