

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 561

Coquitlam School Board Employees
Coquitlam Public Library Employees
First Canada ULC Employees
Children's-House Montessori Pre-School Society Employees

Affiliated with:

C.U.P.E. - B.C. Division
C.U.P.E. Metropolitan Vancouver District Council
Fraser Valley District Labour Council
and
New Westminster & District Labour Council

Revised SEPTEMBER 2026

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**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 561**

CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE 1
(Name)**

- Sec. 1 The name of this Local shall be: Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 561 (Coquitlam School Board Employees; Coquitlam Public Library Employees; and First Canada ULC Employees.
- Sec. 2 This Local was chartered by the Canadian Union of Public employees at its founding convention in September 1963. It has previously been a charter Local Union of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the National Union of Public Employees. This Local Union is also affiliated with the CUPE Metropolitan Vancouver District Council, CUPE BC, and the Fraser Valley District Labour Council.

**ARTICLE 2
(Objectives)**

- Sec. 1 To support the Canadian Union of Public Employees in its objectives as set out in Article 2 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Constitution.
- Sec. 2 To obtain and maintain a continuous level of employment for all its members.
- Sec. 3 To organize all employees within this Union's jurisdiction.
- Sec. 4 To encourage the settlement by negotiation and mediation of all disputes between the members and their employers.

**ARTICLE 3
(Jurisdiction)**

- Sec. 1 The jurisdiction of the Union shall include:
- all non-teaching employees, excluding lab assistants, who work for School District #43, Coquitlam, and who are not employees of or belong to the Coquitlam Teachers' Association;
 - employees of Coquitlam Public Library;
 - employees of First Canada ULC;
 - employees of Children's-House Montessori Pre-School Society.
- Sec. 2 Any Union seeking to join the Local will be ratified by a majority vote of Local 561 Membership.
- Sec. 3 Coquitlam Public Library Division and First Canada ULC Division will remain part of Local 561; unless by a vote of the majority of the respective division membership, they choose to leave Local 561.

**ARTICLE 4
(Membership)**

Sec. 1

(a) **Membership**

An individual employed within the jurisdiction of Local 561 can apply for membership in Local 561 by signing an application and paying the initiation fee set out in Article 4 Sec. 3 of these bylaws.

(b) **Approval of Membership**

At the first membership meeting after the application has been submitted, the name(s) of the applicant(s) will be read out and unless a majority of members present at the meeting object, the applicant(s) will be accepted into membership.

(c) **Oath of Membership**

New members will take this oath:

"I promise to support and comply with the Constitution of this Union, to work to improve the economic and social conditions of other members and other workers, to defend and work to improve the democratic rights and liberties of workers and that I will not purposely or knowingly harm or assist in harming another member.

(d) **Continuation of Membership**

Once accepted, a member continues as a member in good standing while employed within the jurisdiction of the Local Union unless the member loses good standing under the provisions of the CUPE National Constitution.

(e) **Member Obligations**

Members are obligated to abide by the CUPE National Constitution and these bylaws as amended from time to time.

Members will provide the Recording Secretary with their current address, home telephone contact number and where available, an e-mail address. The member will advise the Recording Secretary of any changes to their contact information. This information will be protected and used to communicate with members. Such communication will take the form of mail, e-mail blasts or telephone town halls.

In the case of a telephone town hall, the telephone number may be shared with a service provider under contract to the Local Union to provide the technical equipment to support such a virtual meeting. Upon request, the Local Union will share the telephone contact information with CUPE National or CUPE BC. The purpose of sharing this telephone contact information with CUPE National or CUPE BC is so that the National Union or Provincial Division can conduct a telephone town hall with members on important matters.

Sec. 2 Union dues shall be payable by all employees except student lab assistants.

Sec. 3 No initiation fee shall be charged any applicant for membership in this Union, if said applicant has a transfer or withdrawal card and is a paid-up member of any CUPE local or other Union which is chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress. Initiation and Re-admission fees shall be \$10.00 per member.

Sec. 4 To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must have been accepted into membership and continue to be a member in good standing.

ARTICLE 5 (Revenue)

Sec. 1 The revenue of this Local shall be derived from a percent per capita tax on the total membership of the Local.

Sec. 2 The percent per capita tax shall be established from time to time by this Local according to the provisions of Article 13, Section 1.

Sec. 3 As of January 1, 1998, the percent per capita tax is one point seven five percent (1.75%) per member per month, (plus temporary CUPE National levies).

"Assessments may be levied in accordance with Article B.4.3 of the National Constitution". Suggested language from Article b.8.6. of the National Constitution is:

A member who fails to pay dues and assessments for three months is automatically suspended from membership. This suspension will be reported to the Executive board by Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive board will report all suspensions to the next membership meeting. The member may return to membership in good standing by paying a readmission fee (if applicable) and any other penalty set by the local Union. The readmission fee can not be less than the initiation fee of the local Union.

A member who has been unemployed or unable to work because of sickness shall pay the readmission fee but may not be required to pay arrears.

**ARTICLE 6
(Executive Board)**

(a) The Board shall meet at least once every month.

(b) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum.

(c) The Board shall do the work delegated to it by the Local and deal with all grievances of members as submitted to the board in the reports of the Union Committee. The board shall be held responsible for the proper and effective functioning of the Union Committee.

(d) All charges against Officers or members shall be made in writing and dealt with in accordance with Article B.VI of the National Constitution.

- (e) Officers and members of the Executive Board who are absent from three (3) consecutive membership meetings or three (3) consecutive regular Executive Board meetings without a legitimate reason shall have their office declared vacant. Reasons shall be conveyed to the Executive Board at the time of absence.

In the event of resignation or death of an Executive member, the Board shall declare the office vacant. When a vacancy occurs for any officer or member of the Executive Board, following adequate notice to the membership, the position shall be filled by an election at the next membership meeting provided that the unexpired term is greater than three (3) months at the time of vacancy.

ARTICLE 7

(Duties of officers and shop stewards)

(a) The President shall:

- enforce the CUPE Constitution and these By Laws
- call meetings of the Executive Board and preside at all membership meetings and preserve order
- decide all questions of order and procedure (subject always to appeal to the membership)
- have a vote on all matters (except appeals against his/her rulings) and in the case of a tie vote in any matters, including elections, have the right to cast the deciding vote
- enforce Board or membership decisions on fines and penalties and assessments as determined by the Policy Manual referred to in Article 15 of the Constitution.
- ensure that all officers perform their assigned duties
- fill committee vacancies where elections are not provided for
- sign all cheques and ensure that the Local's funds are used only as authorized or directed by the Constitution, By Laws or vote of the Membership
- be bonded for not less than the amount as set down by the Executive of CUPE National
- introduce new members and conduct them through the initiation ceremony as well as providing them with a kit containing pertinent Union information
- automatically represent the Union as a delegate to the various affiliates, conventions or other committees or councils.
- the President shall continue to appoint members to Joint Board Committees as outlined in Local Union policy. However, the President shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees.
- the President shall visit work sites on a regular basis in order to maintain a high profile for the Local Union and to keep in touch with problems encountered by members in the workplace.
- the President or Designate shall be expected to attend evening meetings as other members, without any overtime being paid or time off in lieu. These meetings shall include, but not be confined to School Board meetings, Coquitlam Public Library meetings, First Canada ULC meetings, C.U.P.E. Metro Council meetings, New Westminster & District Labour Council meetings, and School Board Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Act as spokesperson at negotiations for a number of different certifications that the Union holds and works with elected bargaining committee to research and develop bargaining proposals.
- May argue and present Stage II and III grievances, arbitration cases and cases at Labour law Board hearings and other labour relation duties.
- Interprets, administers and enforces collective agreements.
- Researches and takes forward job evaluation appeals.
- Researches WCB appeals.
- Maintains good relationship with local officers and members in assigned areas. The assignment will include working with Executive Board Members, Committee Members and Stewards.
- Researches grievance requests and initiates grievances when required.
- Works on Political Action for Tri-City School Board and Municipal elections.
- Maintains communication with assigned CUPE Staff Representatives and CUPE BC Officers.
- Supervises Office Clerical staff.

(b) The Vice-President shall:

- attend School Board meetings
- in the absence of the President, preside over Union meetings and assume all the duties and obligations of the President
- if the office of President falls vacant, be Acting President until a new President is elected
- give School Board meeting reports to the General Meeting.
- will act as the official liaison between the Unit Chairs and President.

(d) The Unit Chairs shall:

- Unit Chair #1 will act as the official liaison between the Vice President and the following classifications: Maintenance, IT, Security Runners, Custodians, Strong Start, and any other classification that may need assistance.
- Unit Chair #2 will act as the official liaison between the Vice President and the following classifications: Clerical, EA, LISW, Cooks, Library, Strong Start, and any other classification that may need assistance.
- The Unit chairs elected by the Coquitlam Public Library Division, and Transdev, serve as the executive liaison between the Executive of the Local and their respective divisions.
- each attend their own Division meetings and sit upon their Negotiating Committee.
- act as official liaison between the Executive and the shop stewards
- call regular shop stewards meetings
- organize and/or keep informed of available courses and retraining that would be suitable for Shop Stewards
- The Transdev Unit Chair will sign off on all Transdev grievances until it is moved to arbitration. Movement beyond this stage will be subject to review and approval in consultation with the Union President.

(d) The Secretary shall:

- keep a full, accurate, and impartial account of the proceedings of all regular or special membership and Executive Board meetings. These records must also include a copy of the full financial report (Executive Board meetings) and the written financial report (membership meetings) presented by the Treasurer. The record will also include Trustees' reports
- Record all motions, with the mover's and seconder's names, in the general meeting minutes of the local
- distribute all circulars and notices to members
- preside over membership and Executive board meetings in the absence of both the President and Vice-President
- record all alterations in the Constitution/Bylaws
- Shall provide all necessary correspondence and files required for the General Meeting, such as previous Minutes, membership book, Treasurer's Report, monthly correspondence etc.

(e) The Treasurer shall:

- receive all revenue, initiation fees, dues and assessments, and deposit promptly all monies with the Local's bank or credit union
- pay regular operating bills and expenses
- authorize and code all vouchers for payment
- monitor the accuracy of all ledger entries in the computerized accounting system; make adjustments as necessary
- prepare all CUPE and affiliated organizations' per capita tax forms and remit payment
- ensure that all transactions be recorded in a manner acceptable to the Executive Board and in accordance with good accounting practices
- liaise with the Local's investment officer and makes reports to the Executive Board and general membership
- be bonded for not less than the amount as set down by the Executive of CUPE National
- make all books available for inspection by the auditor and/or Trustees on reasonable notice; and, at the end of the fiscal year shall submit all books to a registered accounting firm for the annual audit
- sign all cheques and ensure that the Local Union's funds are used only as authorized or directed by the CUPE Constitution, Local Union bylaws, or vote of the membership. In consultation with the Executive Board, designate a signing officer during prolonged absences.
- be responsible for maintaining, organizing, safeguarding and keeping on file all supporting documents, authorizations, invoices and/or expense claims for every disbursement made, receipts for all money sent to CUPE National, as well as records and supporting documents for all income received by the Local Union.
- make a written financial report to each regular membership meeting, detailing all income and expenditures for the period.
- respond in writing to any recommendations and concerns raised by the Trustees.
- provide the Trustees with any information they may need to complete the audit report forms supplied by CUPE National
- where the Treasurer is present and per diems have not been distributed, the Treasurer will pay for all meals for members during conferences/seminars and/or bargaining meetings. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President or Vice-President will accept that responsibility.
- T4 CRA reporting
- review vacation and sick time of Local's office staff

- During Job Action:
 - track all picket duty
 - issue strike pay
 - prepare CUPE National strike pay reimbursement
 - prepare CUPE BC strike pay reimbursement
 - prepare financial report to CUPE National
 - prepare financial report to CUPE BC
- Make all books available for inspection by the Trustees and/or auditors on reasonable notice. Ensure that the books are audited at least once each calendar year and within a reasonable time, respond in writing any recommendations and concerns raised by the Trustees.

(f) The Trustees shall:

- act as an auditing committee and audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer
- report their findings to the first membership meeting following the completion of each audit
- be responsible for ensuring that monies have not been paid out without proper constitutional or membership authorization
- ensure that proper financial reports have been made to the membership
- audit the record of attendance prior to the Annual Meeting
- inspect at least once a year any stocks, bonds, securities, office furniture and equipment, titles, deeds to property that may at any time be owned by the Local, and report their findings to the membership
- use audit forms supplied by the National Office and send a copy of each half-yearly audit to the National Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with the provisions of the CUPE National Constitution
- act as Election Committee and shall be responsible for balloting procedures and complete count of ballots cast at all elections
- confirm the eligibility of applicants and authorize reimbursement of bursaries awarded by the Local.
- Act as an auditing committee on behalf of the members and audit the books and accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, and the committees at least once every calendar year.
- Make a written report of their findings to the first membership meeting following the completion of each audit.
- Submit in writing to the President and Secretary-Treasurer any recommendations and/or concerns they feel should be reviewed to ensure that the Local Union's funds

(g) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- guard the inner door at membership meetings and admit no one but members, officers and officials of CUPE, except on the order of the President and by consent of the members present not permit any member to retire from a meeting without permission of the Vice-President assist the Vice-President and Secretary in maintaining the record of membership attendance at meetings examine all present at meetings and report to the Vice-President any without membership cards, and allow none without a membership card to remain obtain the names of all those awaiting initiation, reporting these to the Vice-President
- perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board from time to time.

(h) The Shop Stewards shall:

(i) The Executive Shop Steward shall:

- act as official liaison between the Executive and the shop stewards
- call regular shop stewards' meetings
- organize and/or keep informed of available courses and retraining that would be suitable for Shop Stewards

(ii) The Shop Stewards shall:

- receive and consider all complaints and/or grievances as they may rise
- interpret the contract to individual members when requested
- bring grievances to the attention of the Grievance Committee
- all School Board Shop Stewards shall be involved with planning and implementation of School District 'Pro D Day'

- (iii) Upon termination of office, surrender all books, seals, passwords and other properties of the Local to their successor.

ARTICLE 8

(Meetings)

- Sec. 1 The regular Union meetings shall be held once a month at a time, date and place as set by the Executive Board. The Annual General Meetings shall be held on the second Saturday of April in each year, at a time and place set by the Executive Board.
- Sec. 2 At least 30 members plus Executive Board members present shall constitute a quorum for a regular meeting. The quorum of Executive Board meetings shall be at least 51 percent of the Executive Board Members.
- Sec. 3 Each member on entering the Union chamber shall record his name in the Official Register provided for the purpose.
During virtual meetings a member must have full name viewed on their screen profile.
- Sec. 4 Written notice of general union meetings shall be distributed to each work location ten (10) calendar days before the date of the meeting.
- Sec. 5 The order of business at regular membership meetings is as follows:
1. Roll call of officers
 2. Voting on new members and initiation
 3. Reading of Honouring our Ancestors
 4. Reading of Equality Statement
 5. Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
 6. Matters arising
 7. Correspondence
 8. Treasurer's report and approving expenditures
 9. Executive Committee report
 10. Reports of committees and delegates
 11. Unfinished business
 12. New business
 13. Good of the Union
 14. Adjournment

ARTICLE 9

(Nomination, Election And Installation Of Officers And Stewards)

- Eligibility – to be eligible for nomination for any union position within Local 561, the nominee must have been accepted into the membership and continue to be a member in good standing.
1. Nominations and Elections:
 - The Elections Returning Officer shall be appointed by the executive from the CUPE 561 membership, excluding current officers and candidates for office, no later than December 1st. The appointment shall be subject to approval of the membership at a general meeting. Confirm nominations, vet materials, election timelines, and liaise with office staff and executive as needed. Returning Officer will have knowledge of parliamentary procedures.
 - Conduct the election(s) working with an independent service provider selected by the Executive Board.
 - Investigate and rule upon any election complaints. The decision of the Elections Returning Officer shall be final upon review by the President and Executive Committee..
 2. No member who has been a signing officer for the local union is eligible to run for trustee, until at least one full term has elapsed.
 3. Timelines:
 - Notice to open nominations for any elected position will be posted for at all sites and least seven (7) days prior to the opening of nominations.
 - Nomination period shall be open for two (2) days.
 - Any candidate may submit their campaign information to the Local 561 office on or before the close of business within three (3) days after the close of nominations so the Returning Officer can vet the materials. Vetting materials may take up to 3 (three) days. Campaign material shall be limited to those which are vetted by the Union. The Union will send campaign materials via email to all members and post to the Union website.
 - The nominated members may speak at the next General Meeting for three (3) minutes to the membership as to why they are running.
 - Once materials are vetted there shall be a campaign period of five (5) days.

- Once the campaign period is closed, there shall be a voting period of two (2) days.

4. Voting:

- Elections shall be conducted using the plurality (first pass the post) voting system. Each member is entitled to cast one (1) vote for a candidate for each position to be filled. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. A majority is not required.
- In the event of a tie, a subsequent ballot for the tied position(s) shall be scheduled within (2) days and take place within five (5) days.
- Where two or more nominees are to be elected to an office by secret ballot, the plurality voting system shall be used. Each member is required to vote for up to the number of candidates to be elected or else the electronic vote will be declared spoiled. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Stewart and Committee elections will use a plurality voting system on an online system approved by the Executive Board.

5. Nominations are to be sent electronically as follows:

- Nominator sends email to the Returning Officer and cc's the nominee and union office stating what position they are nominating the individual for
- Nominee replies to nominator and cc's the Returning Officer and union office stating they accept.
- Returning Officer replies to both the nominator, nominee and union office that it has been accepted.
- Once the nomination period is closed, an election is held or the position is filled by acclamation. To be eligible for election to any position the member on the date of being nominated must be a member in good standing.

6. A member may accept nomination for one office only.

7. A member may accept nomination for a position while holding office in any position. If successful in the election, their resignation from their current position will take effect at that time.

8. The Officers, except Members-at-Large, shall be voted for by the entire membership.

9. Candidates for the position of Member-at-Large are only eligible to run for the unit in which they are employed and must be nominated by a member of that unit. Only members of a unit may vote for the Member-at-Large from the same unit.

10. In the event that there is only one (1) nominee for any position the Elections Returning Officer shall declare that nominee elected by acclamation.

11. Elections shall be conducted electronically using a service provider selected by the Executive Board prior to the nominations opening. The service provider selected must have demonstrated capability to carry out the electronic vote and the capacity to ensure all voting is secret.

12. In the event of a by-election, the election timelines established in this section will be adhered to.

13. The Elections Returning Officer shall have authority to investigate and rule upon any election complaints. The decision of the Elections Returning Officer shall be final and binding upon all parties. If a candidate requests a recount of the results of their Election, the Elections Returning Officer shall in the presence of a representative from each candidate concerned, and in the presence of the CUPE National Representative or a CUPE designate, meet with the service provider carrying out the note to recount the vote. All complaints or requests for recount must be sent in writing within seven days of the election results being announced.

14. The Executive Board of this union shall be:

- President
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Secretary Treasurer
- Members At Large (5):
 - 2 School District 43
 - 1 Coquitlam Public Library
 - 1 Transdev
 - 1 Diversity

15. Candidate Conduct

- All candidates must adhere to the CUPE Equality Statement, Code of Conduct, and the Oath of Obligation in accordance with the Local Constitution and Bylaws and the National Constitution.
- A candidate who fails to comply is subject to a Trial Complaint and subsequent Trial Procedure as prescribed in Appendix F of the CUPE National Constitution.
- Failure to follow campaign material or conduct expectations may result in disqualification from the election.

- d) The election Returning Officer shall have the authority to investigate and rule on any such matters. The decision of the Elections Returning Officer shall be final upon review by the President and the Executive Committee.

16. Campaigning

- a) Candidates are expected to focus messaging on their qualifications, experience and vision for the Union.
- b) Candidates must not partake in negative campaigning or personal attacks on any other member(s) or nominee(s).
- c) Candidates must adhere to all election rules and procedures.
- d) Candidates must not spread misinformation or false claims about the Union, member(s), or nominee(s) in print, social media, verbally or otherwise.

17. Campaign Materials

- a) Each candidate may have one (1) campaign item sized 8.5" x11".
- b) All campaign materials must be distributed solely through the Union. Direct distribution by candidates or their supporters is not permitted.
- c) Campaign materials must comply with all Union policies and be vetted and approved by the Elections Returning Officer prior to distribution.

1. TIMING OF ELECTIONS

The following Executive Board positions will be elected in odd number years for a two-year term with elections to be opened in February of that year:

President Recording Secretary
Diversity Member-at-Large
Unit Chair #1 SD# 43 (School District)
Unit Chair #2 (Coquitlam Public Library)
Unit Chair (Transdev)

2. The following Executive Board positions will be elected in even number years with elections to be opened in February of that year:

Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer

3. One Trustee shall be elected every year for a three-year term, for a total of three Trustees.

Newly elected officers will assume elected positions on May 1st.

4. Steward Elections

Steward and Membership Elections shall take place every odd-numbered year for a two-year term with nominations opening immediately following the election of Executive Officers.

SD43

Sixteen stewards will be elected from the school district membership.

Transdev

Two stewards each will be elected from Abbotsford and Chilliwack. One steward will be elected from the maintenance department. One steward will be elected from the office and transit supervisor staff.

Library

One steward will be elected from Poirier Branch and one from City Centre Branch. Newly elected stewards will assume elected positions on May 1st.

Membership Officer

One membership officer will be elected from the membership.

5. Committee Elections

Committee Elections shall take place every even-numbered year for a two-year term with nominations opening immediately following the election of Executive Officers. Committee elections for 2025 will be a one-year term.

- Bargaining
- Grievance
- By-Laws
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Political Action
- New Westminster District Labour Council
- CUPE Metro District Council
- CUPE Fraser Valley District Council

All other committees shall be appointed by the Executive.

In situations where committee vacancies cannot be filled by election, the Executive shall appoint.

6. Conventions

Delegates to the various affiliates, conventions, committees and councils must be members in good standing (as per Article 4, Section 4) and must be elected using plurality voting system at a General Membership Meeting, as required. One (1) Credential will be given to Coquitlam Public Library and one (1) Credential will be given to First Canada ULC to attend the CUPE BC Convention.

Installations

1. All incoming officers will be required to take an oath before the members assembled at a General Membership Meeting, or in writing should they not be present at that meeting.

2. Those declared elected shall take the oath of office as follows:

"I, _____, promise to perform the duties of my office, as set out in the Constitution and bylaws of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, faithfully and to the best of my ability for my term of office. As an Officer of the Union, I will always promote the harmony and dignity of its sessions by counsel and example. I also promise to turn over all property of the Union to my successor at the end of my term."

3. Officers and members of the Executive Board who are absent from three consecutive membership meetings or three consecutive regular Executive Board meetings without a legitimate reason shall have their office declared vacant. Reasons shall be conveyed to the Executive Board at the time of absence.

4. When a vacancy occurs for any Officer, member of the Executive Board or a Trustee, a by-election shall be to complete the unexpired term provided that the unexpired term is greater than three (3) months at a time of the vacancy.

5. The term of office for any position filled through a by-election will be the term that the vacated position was initially elected to fulfil.

ARTICLE 10

(Amendments and/or additions to the Constitution)

Sec.1 All amendments and/or additions to this Constitution must be by Notice of Motion. In order to carry, all amendments and/or additions will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Union Membership in attendance.

Sec.2 No change in this Constitution shall be valid and take effect until approved by the National President of CUPE. The validity shall date from the letter of approval of the National President.

ARTICLE 11
(Waivers)

Sec.1 There are no circumstances under which the Constitution shall be waived.

ARTICLE 12
(Policy Manual)

The Local shall maintain a manual outlining official Local policies which the membership has voted to uphold. All amendments and/or additions to this manual shall be by Notice of Motion. In order to carry, all amendments and/or additions will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the union membership in attendance.

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BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

(Committees and delegates)

- Sec. 1 The President shall be an ex-officio member on all committees of this Union. The Vice-President will act in this absence.
- Sec. 2 There shall be a Bylaws Committee comprised of the President of Union, plus four (4) elected members elected at the Annual General Meeting in April of each year.
- Sec. 3 There shall be a Negotiating Committee comprised of the President of the Union, plus four (4) elected members, who are elected at the annual General Meeting in April of each year. The Secretary of the Committee shall be appointed by the President from among those members elected to the Committee.
- Sec. 4 There shall be a Grievance committee comprised of the President of the Union plus three (3) elected members who are elected at the Annual General Meeting in April of each year. One (1) additional member per grievance shall be appointed by the President from among the Shop Stewards. The Secretary of this Committee shall be appointed by the President from among those members elected to the Committee.
- Sec. 5 The membership and/or Executive shall have authority to add to committees as dictated by circumstances.
- Sec. 6 The General Membership shall, as required, nominate and elect members for appointment as delegates to the various affiliates, conventions or other committees or councils.
- Sec. 7 Appointed committees shall meet at least quarterly, and report as regularly as possible to the membership. Terms of reference for regular elected committees shall be attached to the Constitution as an addendum.
- Sec. 8 Retirees may assist as members, but not as the Chair, of the Social and Picnic Committee, and the Pro-D Committee.

ARTICLE 2

(Rules of Order)

- (1) The President or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall take the chair at all membership meetings. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, the Secretary shall act as President, and in his/her absence, a President pro-tem shall be chosen by the Local.
- (2) No member, except the Chairperson of a Committee making a report, or the mover of a resolution, shall speak more than five minutes, or more than once on the same question, without the consent of the meeting, or until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity. Chairperson and movers of a resolution shall be limited to fifteen minutes, except with the consent of the meeting.
- (3) The President shall state every question coming before the Local, and before allowing debate thereon and again immediately before putting it to a vote shall ask, "is the Local ready for the question?" Should no member rise to speak the question shall then be put.
- (4) A motion to be entertained by the Presiding Officer must be moved and seconded; both mover and seconder must rise and be recognized by the chair.
- (5) A motion to amend, or to amend an amendment, shall be in order, but no motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall be permitted. No amendment, or amendment to an amendment, which is a direct negative of the resolution, shall be in order.
- (6) On motion, the regular order of business may be suspended, by a two-thirds vote of those present, to deal with any urgent business.

- (7) All resolutions and motions, other than those named in rule (17), or those to accept or adopt the report of a Committee, shall, if requested by the Presiding Officer, be presented in writing before being put to the Local.
- (8) At the request of any member, and upon a majority vote of those present, a question may be divided when the sense will admit of it.
- (9) Any member having made a motion can withdraw it with the consent of the seconder, except that any motion once debated cannot be withdrawn, except by a majority vote of those present.
- (10) When a member wishes to speak on a question or to make a motion, he/she shall rise in his/her place and respectfully address the Presiding Officer, but, except to state that he/she rises to a point of order or on a question of privilege, he/she shall not proceed further until recognized by the chair.
- (11) When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the Presiding Officer shall decide which one is entitled to the floor.
- (12) Every member while speaking shall adhere to the question under debate and avoid all personal, indecorous or offensive language, as well as any poor reflection on the Local or member thereof.
- (13) If a member, while speaking, is called to order, he/she shall cease speaking until the point is determined; if it is decided he/she is in order, he/she may again proceed.
- (14) No religious discussion shall be permitted.
- (15) The President shall take no part in debate while presiding, but may yield the chair to the Vice-President in order to speak on any question before the Local or to introduce a new question.
- (16) The Presiding Officer shall have the same rights as other members to vote on any question. In case of a tie, the motion will be put to a second vote. If after a second vote it is still a tie, the motion will be considered defeated.
- (17) When a motion is before the Local, no other motion shall be in order except
 - 1) to adjourn
 - 2) to put the previous question
 - 3) to table
 - 4) to postpone for a definite time
 - 5) to refer
 - 6) to divide or amend,which motions shall have precedence in the order named.
The first three of these shall be decided without debate.
- (18) A motion for the previous question, when regularly moved and seconded, shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" If it is adopted, the President shall proceed to take the vote on the resolution and amendments thereto (if any) according to their priority. If an amendment, or an amendment to an amendment, is adopted, the original resolution, as amended, shall be put to the Local.
- (19) A motion to adjourn is in order except
 - 1) when a member has the floor, and
 - 2) when members are voting.
- (20) A motion to adjourn, having been put and lost, shall not be in order again if there is further business before the Local until fifteen minutes have elapsed.
- (21) After the Presiding Officer declares the vote on a question, and before the Local proceeds to another order of business, any member may ask for a division. A standing vote shall then be taken and the Secretary shall count the same.
- (22) If any member wishes to challenge (appeal) a decision of the chair, he/she must do so at the time the decision is made. If the challenge is seconded, the member shall be asked to state briefly the basis for his/her challenge. The chairperson may then state briefly the basis for his/her decision, following which

the chairperson shall immediately and without debate put the question: "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?" A majority vote shall decide, except that in the event of a tie the chair is sustained.

- (23) After a question has been decided, any two members who have voted in the majority may, at the same or next meeting, move reconsideration thereof.
- (24) Motions to rescind, or appeal a decision previously taken by the membership may be made provided that none of the action involved has been carried out in a way it is too late to undo. Such motions require a majority vote when notice of motion has been given and a two-thirds majority vote when it has not.
- (25) No member shall enter or leave a meeting during the reading of the minutes, the initiation of new members, the installation of officers or the taking of a vote; and no member shall be allowed to leave without the permission of the Vice-President.
- (26) The Local's business and proceedings of meetings, are not to be divulged to any persons outside of the Local or the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

ARTICLE 3 (Disbursements and out-of-pocket expenses)

- Sec. 1 The Executive board shall cause a policy statement to exist wherein shall be contained, among other policy items determined by the Union, from time to time, disbursements to committees and members and out-of-pocket expenses, etc. These shall be subject to review and revision annually and reported at a General Meeting.

Any expenditure in excess of \$2000.00 that is not covered in the current policy re: Expenses must be initiated by Notice of Motion presented at a general meeting and will require a two-thirds majority vote of the Union membership in attendance to carry.

- Sec. 2 In unforeseen emergency situations requiring immediate action to safeguard the interests of the Local, where there is not enough time for Notice of Motion to be properly made (e.g. strike actions, emergency advertising, unforeseen equipment failures), the Executive, with the agreement of the Trustees, shall be authorized to spend more than \$500.00, without Notice of Motion, but must justify such expenses at the next General Membership meeting.
- Sec. 3 Expenditures of the Union shall be for the purposes of the Union only; cannot be divided among individual members; and can only be utilized for valid local Union purposes,; and in all cases shall be made by cheque, signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President and/or Vice President so empowered to act only in the absence or illness of the President or Treasurer.
- Sec. 4 Any member absent from work on authorized Union business shall be compensated by the Union for loss of wages, and for any other expenses properly incurred.
- Sec. 5 Mileage allowance for elected and committee members, not receiving Out-Of-Pocket expenses, attending on behalf of the union. Mileage will be paid on the current Canada Revenue Agency mileage rate.

ARTICLE 4 (Honorary life membership)

- Sec. 1 Honorary Life Membership - the membership may confer an Honorary Life Membership upon a member who has rendered valuable service to this Union. Such Honorary Life Membership shall, after the member has ceased to be an active member, entitle the holder to attend all meetings, functions, etc., but shall not entitle the holder to vote or hold office.

ARTICLE 5 (Bursary regulations)

- Sec. 1 As directed by the Membership, general bursaries in the amount of \$500.00 will be awarded each June. Additionally there shall be one (1) Elizabeth McKnight Trades Bursary in the amount of \$650, as well as, one (1) Colin Gray Bursary in the amount of \$650 awarded by the Trustees of CUPE Local 561.
- Sec. 2 Students who are the sons, daughters, spouse of members, or members of CUPE Local 561 in good standing (as per Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution, and confirmed by the Trustees) shall be eligible to apply for these bursaries. Under extenuating circumstances, a member not currently in good standing can apply to the membership to be recognized as eligible.
- Sec. 3 If, in any one year, only one application is received, then only one bursary shall be awarded to that applicant. No applicant shall receive more than one bursary.
- Sec. 4 General bursaries shall be made only to students graduating from high school and entering a recognized institute of higher learning (i.e. colleges, universities and accredited trade schools). The time line will be in accordance with the guidelines for Provincial Scholarships. The Elizabeth McKnight Trades Bursary may be applied only to students attending accredited apprenticeship training programs or trade schools.
- Sec. 5 The amount awarded shall be paid to the student upon proof of registration in at least one semester from the institute providing such training/education. A copy of a receipt for tuition, fees, text books, and course supplies paid shall be submitted to and confirmed by the Trustees, who will then authorize the Treasurer to reimburse the recipient. Any bursary not claimed within 24 months of being awarded shall be cancelled.
- Sec. 6 The Union shall notify all members through our regular bulletin of the proper time for application.
- Sec. 7 The deadline for applications shall be not later than May 1st of each year, and should be submitted to the student's counselor or to the Union Trustees.

ARTICLE 6

(Trials)

- Sec. 1 This Local endorses the Trials provisions as these are outlined in the National constitution of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

APPENDIX A
EXPENSE POLICY
(As per By Laws, Article 3, Section 1)

A. CONVENTIONS AND SEMINAR EXPENSES (IN AND OUT OF TOWN)

1. (a) When attending meetings lasting all day, that is, morning sessions, afternoon sessions, and/or evening sessions, and a hotel room is required, \$80.00 per day, or pro-rated for any part thereof, per delegate, plus reasonable accommodation charges. No receipts are necessary for the \$80.00 allowance.
(b) The Treasurer of the Local will, if at all possible, determine the hotel rate beforehand and submit a cheque. Hotel receipt is required if the Treasurer is unable to make prior arrangement. Personal expenses incurred are the delegates' responsibility.
(c) If a delegate wishes to attend the Convention Social Evening, he/she will be reimbursed to the extent of the entry tickets.
(d) Members who are enrolled in courses paid by the Union who do not attend the courses will reimburse the Union the cost of the course and all other expenses incurred by the local Union.
2. Mileage rate for all mileage extending the boundaries of School District 43 will be paid at the rate established by the Canadian Revenue Agency rate.
3. Travel arrangements should be made by the most economical means available.
4. Delegates shall be fully compensated by the Union for loss of wages while attending conventions and seminars.
5. Each delegate attending the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School, Naramata School, Workshops, Seminars, etc., whose hotel and meals are paid in full by the Union shall receive an allowance of \$3.00 per day.

B. NEGOTIATIONS/EXECUTIVE/WAGE CONFERENCE/COORDINATION/COMMITTEE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS, ETC.

1. When attending meetings that require attendance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (approx.) where breakfast is required - \$20.00; where lunch is required - \$25.00 per delegate or member; plus an additional \$35.00 if dinner is required.
2. Mileage rate for all mileage extending beyond the boundaries of School District 43 – as established by the Canadian Revenue Agency rate.
3. Delegates shall be fully compensated by the Union for loss of wages while attending negotiation, wage conference, coordination meetings, workshops, seminars. However, members who are enrolled in courses paid by the Union who do not attend the courses will reimburse the Union the cost of the course and all other expenses incurred by the local Union

C. METRO AND NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD COORDINATING MEETINGS

1. When attending evening meetings - \$10.00 per delegate.
2. Mileage rate for all mileage extending beyond the boundaries of School District 43 – as established by the Canadian Revenue Agency rate. Under extenuating circumstances and under the direction of the Executive, the mileage rate may be extended within school district boundaries.

D. OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Vice-President	\$150.00
Secretary	\$150.00
Treasurer	\$150.00

The Vice-President must also attend the two (2) School Board Monthly meetings.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall submit monthly a voucher covering expense incurred by them in performing the duties of their office and such expenses shall not exceed the amount as set out in the "Expense Policy" of this local Union. At the discretion of the President, the Treasurer may receive up to a maximum of 4 days per month wage loss paid by the local for the performance of his/her duties.

When the Vice-President assumes the responsibility of the President for a period of less than one month, the Vice-President shall receive his/her regular out-of-pocket expenses and shall be taken off the job for the equivalent hours to carry out his/her obligations. When the Vice-President assumes the responsibilities of the President for a period of time of more than one month, the Vice-President shall be paid at the Lead Hand Trades Day rate, forfeit out-of-pocket expenses and will perform all the duties of the President.

When, for the period of one month or more, any table office assumes the full responsibilities of another, that table officer shall receive the out-of-pocket expenses equivalent to that of the position being replaced.

When, for a period not to exceed two months, one of the paid table officers is absent, due to vacation or illness, he/she shall continue to receive the appropriate out-of-pocket expenses.

E. ISSUING OF CHEQUES

The Treasurer will issue cheques covering expenses within the policy structure. Prior to a cheque being issued, a voucher must be completed by the member incurring the expense and must be signed by at executive officer with signing authority. Notwithstanding the above, the Treasurer may run a \$200.00 cash float (to cover such expenses as door prizes, executive meal allowances, etc.) for which petty cash vouchers must be issued.

F. SOCIAL

1. If a picnic and/or Children's Christmas Party is held, the Union will bear the expense as funds permit.
2. Dinner/Dance - cost sharing on a 50/50 basis between Local and member. The Local will provide two free drink tickets with each ticket purchased to the Union dance.

G. SICK AND VISITING

1. (a) Flowers and fruit baskets shall be ordered through the Union office from an appropriate cost-effective vendor.

(a) The chairperson shall have petty cash in the amount of \$25.00 - \$30.00 for stamps, cards, etc., voucher redeemable.
2. Recommended Procedure through the Union Office:
 - (b) Illness – a phone call/card for 5-10 days sick leave and upon the birth of a member's child. After fifteen (15) days illness a fruit basket/flowers (one time per member per year).
 - (c) Hospitalization – after 3 days, a fruit basket/flowers (one time per member per year).
 - (d) Death of a CUPE member - a \$150.00 donation will be sent to the charity of their choice, also a sympathy card will be sent to the family. In the case of a death of a direct relative of a CUPE member (as defined in Articles regarding Bereavement Leave in the Collective Agreements) a sympathy card will be sent to the family.

H. SUPPLIES

The Treasurer shall have the power to purchase or authorize purchases for the office supplies, such as stamps, stationery, etc.

I. CLERICAL ASSISTANCE

The Executive of Local 561 is empowered to employ necessary clerical assistance to work in the Union office, hours, rates of pay and job description to be determined by the Executive.

J. RETIREES

Upon retirement, retirees will be invited to attend one of the two General Meetings closest to their retirement date, at which time the Union will honour them with a retirement gift of:

- a wallet plus \$20.00 per year of service.
- 1. At the Executive's discretion special consideration will be given to a Retiree who cannot attend one of the two General meetings due to illness or other mitigating circumstances.
- 2. If for any reason, a Retiree fails to cash their cheque within twelve months from the date of issue of the cheque, a replacement cheque will NOT be issued. Should the request to reissue the cheque arrive prior to twelve months lapsing, a replacement cheque (in the same amount) will be issued.

K. HALF-TIME PRESIDENT

Funds permitting, the Local Union is empowered to employ a Full-Time, 12-month President. The following regulations will govern the costs of this position:

1. The President shall be paid at the Top Rate of the School Board Support Staff. This rate shall also be paid for two weeks of vacation and one-half of the statutory holidays. (Note: the balance of vacation allotment and Statutory holidays, illness, WCB absences, approved leaves, etc, shall be paid at regular rates of pay)
2. The President shall be paid mileage as established in the Collective Agreement with the School Board for all travel on behalf of the Local Union, including travel within the boundaries of School District #43, and shall be paid the monthly travel allowance as established in the Collective Agreement with the School Board (in 1993 \$25.00 per month). Business insurance shall be paid by the Local Union.
3. The President shall be reimbursed for expenses as per the per diem policy of this Local Union.

L. OTHER EXPENSES

1. The Union will support up to \$100.00 any request from a high school in District 43 in support of their Dry Grad.
2. Upon request, the Union will make a donation to each bargaining unit for Pro-D activities, socials or other related events.
3. Upon the request of each participating bargaining unit, the local Union will donate a door prize to the value of \$150.00 to the annual United Way campaign.
4. The local Union will donate up to \$250.00 the retirement event of a Union officer with five year's service.
5. Upon request, the local Union may consider making a donation to the trust fund for a member's dependent children in the event of the member's death.
6. Upon request, the local Union may consider limited financial assistance to a member who has been terminated and is awaiting arbitration, or to provide a strike pay supplement for all members affected.
7. The Executive Board will support the retirement committee with up to \$2000.00 annually for their events.

**APPENDIX B
COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General meeting in April.
2. The Committee will meet shortly after the Annual General Meeting and elect members to the following positions: chairperson/alternate; secretary.
3. The Committee will meet on a regular basis either monthly or bi-monthly.
4. The Committee will maintain written records and submit a written report to the Executive Meeting and an oral report to the General Meeting.
5. The Committee shall consider such constitutional queries and changes as may be brought before it by the membership or Executive.
6. The Committee shall report to the membership on items under consideration and make recommendations on proposed constitutional amendments to membership meetings.
7. Once approved, the Committee shall submit constitutional changes to CUPE National Office for approval.
8. The committee shall maintain a current copy of the constitution as amended and approved by CUPE National; and shall on at least a biennial basis update and reprint the Union Constitution, submitting costs to the Executive for approval. Such new editions of the constitutions shall if possible be prepared in time to be distributed at an Annual General Meeting.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

1. Members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting in April.
2. The committee will meet shortly after the Annual General Meeting and elect members to the following positions: chairperson/alternate; secretary.
3. The Committee will meet in the first week of the month.
4. The Committee will:
 - maintain up-to-date minutes,
 - submit a monthly written report to the Executive Committee,
 - prepare an oral report for the Monthly General Meeting, and
 - submit a monthly article for Shop Talk.
5. The Committee will abide by all WCB regulations and report any safety hazards.
6. If the liaison from the Executive Committee to this Committee is not an elected member of the Committee, he/she will act as an advisor only to the Committee, without a vote.
7. The Committee will:
 - review the minutes of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee,
 - review the minutes of individual site OH&S Committees,
 - review WCB claims (Accident/Incident Reports), and
 - review Violent Incident Reports.
8. All members of the Committee in good standing shall be encouraged to take health and safety courses, with priority given to new members. Joint funding will be utilized first; then Members may apply to the Local for additional funding.
9. Committee members attending education courses, conferences, seminars or conventions are to present a report to the Committee. Members who do not meet Committee attendance requirements as per Article 7(e) of the Constitution shall not be eligible to attend such courses, conferences, seminars or conventions.
10. The Committee should recommend to the Pro D Committee any safety courses that could be offered to the membership on the annual Pro D Day.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

1. This local Union shall establish a Political Action Committee.
2. A minimum of six members of the Committee shall be elected at the General membership meeting in April each year.
3. The duties and functions of the Committee shall be:
 - to provide information to the membership and the public on the issues and candidates in provincial, municipal, school board and federal elections.
 - to communicate with members on areas that affect their livelihood.
 - to encourage and assist members and their families to register and vote in elections.
 - to coordinate the local Union's political activities with other trade unions.
 - to recommend amounts to be donated to election campaigns, all such donations to be approved by the membership at the regular monthly meetings without Notice of Motion being required unless the amount being recommended exceeds \$500.00.
4. A member of the Local Union's Executive shall sit on the Political Action Committee to facilitate liaison between the Committee and the Executive.
5. The Committee will maintain written records and submit a written report to the Executive Meeting and an oral report to the General Meeting.

SOCIAL AND PICNIC COMMITTEE

1. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the Executive.
2. The Committee will meet on a regular basis, either monthly or bi-monthly as directed to organize specific social events.
3. The Committee will maintain written records and submit a written report to the Executive Meeting and an oral report to the General Meeting.
4. The Committee shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. making coffee for the regular monthly meetings.
 - b. organizing established annual social events, such as the union dance, picnic.

Members may suggest additional activities to the Social Committee who will bring these forward to the membership for approval and action.
5. The Committee shall determine who, other than Local 561 members, may attend the social functions.
6. The Committee shall submit receipts to the Treasurer of Local 561, and prepare a statement of operating expenses after each event to the general membership.
7. The Committee will seek donated door prizes from Tri-Cities businesses/organizations. The Local bears no responsibility for purchasing door prizes for social events.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee will meet shortly after the Election and elect members to the following positions: Alternate Chair Person and Secretary.
2. The Committee will meet as needed.
3. The Committee will maintain written records and submit written reports to the Executive Meeting.

The Grievance Committee will:

1. Review all grievances at stage 1 and 2 and decide whether the grievance continues to the next step/stage.
2. Advise members when the grievance will or will not move forward.
3. If the grievance is not moving forward, committee will inform the member of the appeal process.
4. Hear appeals from the members and render a decision.

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