



January 2023

Shoptalk

School District #43 (Coquitlam) / Coquitlam Public Library /
First Canada Transit Services-Fraser Valley /
Children's House Montessori Pre-School



GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 11th, 2023

380 Montgomery Street, Coquitlam

9:00 am

New members for initiations: 8:45 am

Babysitting will be provided

President News

Welcome to a new year. I want to say a big thank you to all members for a great 2022. We had some challenges with most bargaining units. The Reps worked hard throughout the year to support our members through any issues that come to them. Well done by all our reps in all our Bargaining units.

We had and still have bargaining happening. SD 43 and Children's Montessori have been ratified with Coquitlam Public Library and First Transit are still in the bargaining process. First Transit has had a strike vote, (98%) in favour.

The end of the year had a Christmas party for children/grandchildren of CUPE561. Lots of fun was had by all and Santa mentioned that all the children there were on the NICE list. Thank you Santa. A huge Thank You to Karen Leathwood and Jill Allen for all the hard work that they put into this event. Without them this would not have happened. If you see them give them a Thank You.

We ended our year with some difficult weather. I know many of our members worked hard through this, with busses not running for a couple days and SD43 sites closed one day. CPL was open through all the weather that was out there. We are still in winter, and we often have snow in February. Please pay close attention to your company's procedures regarding snow and work. Please be careful and don't risk your health for your employer, you take care of you first.

A new year often brings new issues. The union reps are there to help you when you need them. Call the Union office at 604-936-4545 and our office staff will assist you with finding support. There should also be a bulletin with names and numbers of your reps in your bargaining unit.

I am available to talk if a member needs to, you can call my office or send me an email at president@cupe561.ca. These emails that you send to me asking questions will not be added to correspondence. If it is a question that occurs often I will present it to the members in an anonymous way. So please feel free to contact me and know it is private.

Happy Lunar Year as well.

In Sol,
Jane Gibbons
President





First Transit definitely had some trouble getting around during the storm. Buses were shut down for days!

First  Transit

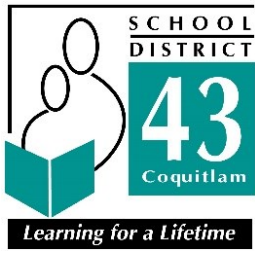
First Transit
Strike Committee
training session.



Questions and Answers

- Q: It says I need a minimum of 4 courses for a supervisor/leadhand position, is there any specifics on that?
- A: There are specific hours for these courses needed. It is a total of 84hrs with **2** of the courses being at least 21hrs minimum each. With the rest of the hours to total up to 84hrs. Justice Institute and BCIT have courses that meet the 21hr minimum requirement.
- Q: With the changes in the new SD 43 Collective Agreement regarding Pro D Day attendance, do the EA's and Career Advisors have to work every Pro D Day?
- A: Yes, anyone that is assigned to work Pro D Days, (EA's, Career Advisors newly added) are assigned to work every school day except Administration Day (end of June). Members will be able to use a vacation day (if put into CADS as per vacation requirements in the Collective Agreement) or a personal leave day (from your allotment) for that day if they are not going to work. These leaves must be approved by your administrator as per any personal leave, giving 24hrs notice.
- Q: Should I sign reminder notices, regarding policies or regulations that the employer is handing out to members? We have been given 2 or 3 recently at First Transit.
- A: No. The union has talked with the employer regarding these letters. We have requested that all signed documents regarding Leave of Absence, and bus washer duties are to be removed from files and given back to the member. Please in the future, check with your Member At Large or the Union office if you should be signing any paperwork given to you outside of training.

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



School District Employees

Homewood Health | Santé
1-800-663-1142
TTY: 1-888-384-1152
International (Call collect): 604-689-1717
HomeWeb.ca

Employee and Family Assistance Program
Coaching | Counselling | Support
Confidential | Available anytime

PEBT

PUBLIC EDUCATION BENEFITS TRUST

Joint Early Intervention Services Absences of 6 days or more



Supporting Members

We support Members during their absence. Supports may include access to medical specialists, treatment and diagnostic tests, such as an MRI, to help you recover and return to work safely.

Confidential

Personal medical information, such as your diagnosis or treatment details, is confidential and will not be shared with your employer or union.

Next Steps

Desjardins will contact you within 1-2 business days. Desjardins will work with you and your doctor on a support plan that is right for you.

Required Participation

After 6 days of absence, your participation is required even if you are receiving benefits from WorksafeBC or are returning to work. This program is supported by both your employer and your local union.

Questions?

You may contact your school district office, local union representative or go to www.pebt.ca.

PEBT

PUBLIC EDUCATION BENEFITS TRUST

Joint Early Intervention Services Frequently Asked Questions

1: ARE ALL MEMBERS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE (JEIS) IF THEY ARE ABSENT FOR MORE THAN 6 CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULED WORKING DAYS/SHIFTS?

A: Yes. This is a mandatory part of the Public Education Benefits Trust's (PEBT) long term disability (LTD) plan, and this includes WorksafeBC absences.

2: SHOULD A MEMBER RESPOND TO DESJARDINS EVEN IF THEY ARE RETURNING TO WORK?

A: Yes. Even if assistance is not required, a Member should respond to Desjardins-- so that Desjardins can move on and help other Members.

3: WHAT WILL DESJARDINS ASK THE MEMBER WHEN THEY FIRST CALL?

A: Desjardins will gather basic information such as the Member's last date worked and information about why the Member is absent. If the Member remains off work, Desjardins may send forms for the Member and their doctor to complete.

4: WHAT IF THE MEMBER HAS NOT SEEN A DOCTOR YET?

A: A main objective is to help ill or injured Members return to work in a caring, safe and timely manner. Desjardins can help the Member find a doctor if necessary.

5: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE MEMBER REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN A RETURN TO WORK (RTW)/ACCOMMODATION PLAN THAT THEIR PHYSICIAN SUPPORTS?

A: If the Member refuses to participate in the RTW plan supported by their physician, the Member is not complying with the physician's treatment and may not qualify for LTD benefits.



January General Meeting Door Prize Winners

- Kyoungyoung Kim
- Lauren Holmes-Hannah
- Jason Washington
- Jill Bell
- Joy Philbrook

Congratulations!

Options to choose from: Cutlery plus one of either Bento Box or Dry Bag

SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Cards of Thanks

Jila Firouzmandi
Dawn Glover
Anna Kiosteka
Mojgan Sahebi
SHARE

Get Well Wishes

Ann Johannes

Sympathy Cards

Jila Firouzmandi

DECEMBER RETIREMENTS

Cesar Biagtan

Arnette Friesen

James Grates

Deborah Guratovich

France Hadjievangelou

Julio Hintay

Susan Macrae

Florinda Salas Barquero

Antoinette Woodman

Congratulations!



BURSARIES 2023

Students graduating from High School in 2023 who are the sons, daughters, spouse of members or members of CUPE Local 561 shall be eligible if member has **attended not less than 50% of the regular Union meetings during a twelve-month period - May 2022 to April 2023 inclusive**, may be eligible for a General Bursary in the amount of \$350.00 to attend a post secondary institution. The Elizabeth McKnight Trades Bursary and Colin Gray Trades Bursary in the amount of \$500.00 are for applicants attending an accredited Apprenticeship Training Program or Trade School. ***In order to be considered for a Bursary you must stay for the duration of the each meeting (approx. 2hrs). Deadline to apply for a bursary is May 1, 2023. Please check the website for more information.***

CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice-President **Lisa Gregory**
Recording Secretary **Jill Allen**
Treasurer **Darin Nielsen**
Senior Shop Steward **Wendy Meston**

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Member At Large
Member At Large
Member At Large

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Karin Leathwood (SD #43)
Donna Clark-MacMurchy (Library)
Arthur Lilley (First Canada)