

News Bulletin

PLEASE POST

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 561

Coquitlam School Board, Coquitlam Municipal Library, First Canada ULC-Fraser Valley,
and Children's House Montessori Pre-School Society Employees

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May 5, 2023

Greetings to all members of CUPE Local 561,

I would like to formally introduce myself as your newly elected president. I am very excited to take this position and am truly dedicated to ensuring that all our members feel supported and represented to the fullest. We have a lot going on in our four units, and each has its own unique challenges. I look forward to working with our executive board and our National Union to ensure the best working conditions possible for all our members.

I've seen a lot of change over my 31 years as a member of Local 561—especially in the growth of the school district. SD #43 continues to see significant growth, so I am eager to work with your executive to meet the challenges this will pose for the local. After 13 years of active involvement with the union, I am ready to meet those challenges. As well as serving as a shop steward for caretaking, EAs, and youth workers, and as chief shop steward, I spent five years as vice-president and have sat on several committees.

As you are aware, we have approximately 200 members from our First Transit group who are currently on strike and continue to need our support. While thanking our previous president, Jane Gibbons, for all the hard work she put into the First Transit strike, I want to assure these hard working, dedicated members that I will pick up where she left off and will not recommend a settlement that does not address the members' concerns and needs. Along with our strike and bargaining committees, and the rest of your local executive, I will continue the fight to achieve a compensation package that our members at First Transit deserve.

I understand the impact this action has had on our First Transit members' lives, and I greatly appreciate the sacrifices you have all made. Our team, which is comprised of all 561 members, will be there to support you throughout this fight. Any member of our local who would like to help out with the strike or join the picket line is encouraged to contact our office for details on how to help.

Thank you all for your support!!

In solidarity,

Randy Kootte
President

RK/lh

