



Shoptalk



September 2023

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

GENERAL MEETING Saturday October 14th VIA ZOOM

Greetings 561 members,

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer! Fall is upon us and I'm wishing our CUPE family and friends a positive and fulfilling year ahead. Our Executive is looking forward to getting back at it and engaging with all members to continue to improve working conditions for all 561 Units. I'd like to report on some developments over the Summer.

Our Transit members previously First Transit, now bought out by Transdev, who had spent four months on the picket lines, have ratified a new collective agreement which will end March 31 2026! Our local, and other CUPE locals across the Country, as well as the entire labour movement owes these 213 members a great deal gratitude for sacrificing and holding the line for what they deserved. As you may know, legendary Mediator Vince Ready was appointed by the Labour Minister to help resolve this long dispute. In the end, our bargaining committee was very pleased by the outcome and feel strongly that most of the Union's concerns were addressed with Mr Ready's recommendations, particularly the regional wage disparity and lack of a pension plan. In one round of bargaining we made significant steps to close the wage gap with other Transit workers across the Lower Mainland, and opened the door to completely closing the gap in future rounds of negotiations. We do have some challenges with some new language around scheduling, which we are dealing with through the grievance process, but I am confident that our amazing team will work through all of the issues.

Thanks again for all the support from all of you, and the rest of the larger CUPE family, we truly had all hands on deck from all levels of CUPE and I cannot thank them enough!

We now need to focus on our Library Unit. Their collective agreement expired two and a half years ago, and negotiations have been moving very slowly. We have a few bargaining dates in September, and will be pushing for many more dates to get this process moving along, as these members I'm sure could use the wage increases they deserve! Our National rep for our Library division Russell Green has accepted a position in CUPE's legal department so will be gradually handing over this bargaining file to incoming National rep Liam O'Neil. Congratulations to Russel on his new position, and welcome Liam to the Library division. You may already know Liam as he is our current rep for our transit Unit. Liam did an amazing job with our transit strike and was key in negotiating a deal to end the strike, particularly his work with Mediator Ready. We are in good hands, let's get this deal done!

At SD43 it is business as usual, no bargaining!! This will allow our team to focus on creating and maintaining harmonious working environment. With a new elementary school opening, and some new funds allocated for our lunch programs, we have some new CUPE jobs which is good news. We will continue to keep an eye on things to ensure the district prioritized new funds to create more CUPE positions. We have a couple upcoming arbitrations and a few grievances on the docket but things are relatively quiet on that front.

Thanks again for be a supportive and engaging membership, we are a strong team and I'm very proud to be a part of 561!!

Randy Kootte
President

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th

What can you do?



Read books by Indigenous authors



Review the 94 Truth and Reconciliation calls to action and commit to at least one



Watch online events hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



Identify and connect with your local Indigenous serving organizations



Read Phyllis Webstad's book "The Orange Shirt Story"

Many actives will be happening on September 30th and with the School District on Friday September 29th.

Please send the Union photos from CUPE 561 members involved on such an important day to be added to the website and Shop Talk.



Welcome back to work Trans Dev members!
The fight was worth it!

CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| President | Randy Kootte |
| Vice-President | Lisa Gregory |
| Recording Secretary | Jill Allen |
| Treasurer | Darin Nielsen |
| Senior Shop Steward | Mike Myers |

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

Debby Cowan (SD #43)
Karin Leathwood (SD #43)
Melani Williams (Library)
Carol Archibald (First Canada)



BURSARIES 2024

Students graduating from High School in 2024 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 2023 to April 2024 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, 2024. Please check the website for more information.***

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 from your union.

Email to: cupe561@cupe561.ca

If you have provided your email and you are not receiving updates, please contact the office as there have been many returned in the last few months.

Returned email examples: @shaw.ca and @telus.net

Questions and Answers

- Q: Do members need to take bereavement leave right away, and do all days need to be taken consecutively?
- A: Bereavement leave must be taken within one year after the passing of the family member, and the four or five days (depending on what Unit you are from) of bereavement do not need to be taken all at once. You can split them up.
- Q: I am an EA and I've been directed by my Principal to supervise students from the general student population during recess. Am I required to do this?
- A: The answer is no, you are only required to supervise students who require EA support, not the general population students. If this is happening at your school, notify your shop steward or contact the Union office
- Q: I am a Caretaker, I've been injured and require a temporary accommodation of my duties. Am I entitled to Union representation throughout the Duty to Accommodate process?
- A: Absolutely, it is very clear in Human Rights legislation that, in a Union environment, the DTA process is a "Tri Party Process". The union should always be involved to make sure other members are not negatively affected or in the rare case that a minor adjustment to collective agreement language is required in order to accommodate the member. These adjustments need Union approval.

SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Fruit Baskets

Rick Barker
Doreen Lozynyc
Amber Schwingenschloegl

Death of a Member

Neil Baerg—First Dev
Abnash Gill—SD43

Cards of Thanks

Randy Kootte
Kevin Maruk

Sympathy Cards

Randy Kootte
Kevin Maruk

RETIREMENTS

June:

Barb Bellerose
Susan Craig
Patti Kristjanson
Susan McMillian

July:

Anita Carmichael
Roberta Ellison
Deb Johnson
Mary Lowther
Doreen Lozynyc

August:

Brenda Aarstad
June Harrison
Karen Wigman

Congratulations!

Initiations

School District 43

Nickolaus Agnoletto—EA
Leonela Argenal—EA
Jobert Dela Cruz—CT
Merima Hurtic—EA
Eunhye Jong—CT
Kalvin Krishna—CT
Junbong Lee—CT
Michelle Moseley—EA
Ilan Moskovsky—SR
Jung Jay Park—CT
Nahrwan Saeed—NHA
Nicole Wray—EA

Montessori

Tawnya Pagnottaro—TA

Coquitlam Public Library

Anisha Abdulla—Page

Anthony Alua—CT
Tin Man Chan—CT
Alain Field—CARP
Jennifer Inkster—NHA
Hannah Kennett—EA
Mayu Lake—EA
Bo Li—CT
Zahra Mehranfar—EA
Dennis Musto—SR
Amanda Poole—CL
Theresa Sayer—EA
Rui Xu—LISW

Hakary Amin—EA
Domonic Cheung—EA
Andrea Hansen—LISW
Ruel Irada—CT
Gwanjung Kim—CT
Jun Lee—EA
Jessica Lopez—CL
Elizabeth Maeda—LISW
Mohammad Naghshineh—SR
Yara Sabbaghan—ASC
Jared Wood—ELEC
Bora Yoon—LISW

Deanne Salewich—Page

Welcome

Door Prize Winners at the September General Meeting

#78—Kalvin Krishna

#56—Hannah Kennett

#67—Domonic Cheung

#12—Carla Nielsen

#83—Dennis Musto

#35—Tony Jean Bah

