



Shoptalk



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

October 2023

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Saturday November 18th VIA ZOOM

Greetings 561 Members,

I hope everyone is doing well having a nice fall season so far. October has been a tough month with the Hazel Trembath fire, as well as other unsettling situations happening across the globe. I know that our CUPE 561 family will support each other through these tough times and will treat each other with the respect and dignity we all deserve, regardless of any difference of opinions. I thank all of you for your ongoing support for each other, and our solidarity.

The CUPE National Convention has wrapped up and our 561 delegates thank the members for sending us to be a part of conducting the business of our National Union. Elections and the passing of many important resolutions were on the agenda. For me, discussing the need to rally our members to get involved in the Union was one of the most important messages from the Convention. I challenge all of our members to consider getting involved, learning how our Union works, and being a part of our amazing team. CUPE has all sorts of training and education to support you along the way, and as promised, I will be sure to utilize these resources to the fullest. I encourage our young workers and workers from all equity groups to come together, get involved, and continue making us a very strong and diverse group of activists, working together, creating better working conditions for our members and all workers across our country. Please contact our Union office for any questions on how to get involved.

I look forward to working with all of our members , and wish everyone a healthy, happy, and peaceful fall and winter season.

Hope to see you at the winter social!

In solidarity,

Randy Kootte
President

CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Randy Kootte	Member At Large	Debby Cowan (SD #43)
Vice-President	Lisa Gregory	Member At Large	Karin Leathwood (SD #43)
Recording Secretary	Jill Allen	Member At Large	Melani Williams (Library)
Treasurer	Darin Nielsen	Member At Large	Carol Archibald (First Canada)
Senior Shop Steward	Mike Myers		

Save the dates!

CUPE Local 561 Children's Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will take place on
Sunday December 10th from 2:00—4:00
Poco Bowladrome

There will be a sign up bulletin coming to all sites on
Wednesday November 1st, 2023

Please **COPY** the form and email to cupe561@cupe561.ca

Deadline to sign up is Friday November 24th.



CUPE 561's Winter Social and Dance! ***Saturday December 16th, 2023***

Place: Bennett Craft and Kitchen, Port Coquitlam

Time: 7:00 pm—11:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00 per person—includes 2 drink tickets and appies

This is open to all CUPE 561 members/retirees and one guest each.

To purchase tickets, information can be found on the website and
on your CUPE board in the staff room.

If you have any questions, please contact the union office or:

Debby Cowan: 778 997 1847

Lisa Gregory: 604 551 5008

Ticket Deadline: November 27th or until tickets sell out





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.***

CUPE

Elected delegates attending the
CUPE National Convention in
Quebec City—October 23-27
Thanks for representing
CUPE Local 561!



Questions and Answers

- Q:** SD43—do the five days of bereavement leave have to be taken right away, and do all five days need to be taken all at once?
- A:** The five days need to be taken within one year of the passing of your family member, or for grieving purposes, and can be split-up, so members are not required to take all 5 days at once.
- Q:** I am a conventional driver in Abbotsford, and I am required to serve on a Jury. Do I get paid by the Employer during this time?
- A:** As per article 22.a, you are paid by the Employer for up to 30 days. If the courts pay you any money for jury pay, you would need to reimburse the Employer
- Q:** I am an EA, and I have been hit by a student that I support. I don't feel safe working with this student, do I need to continue working with them?
- A:** No. As per WorkSafe BC section G3.12, a worker has the right to refuse unsafe work if they have reasonable cause that their health and safety is at risk. If this is the case, immediately stop performing the work, and notify your supervisor or Union to get the process going. The goal is to come up with an appropriate safety plan. If the work is not satisfied with the safety plan, a WorkSafe representative may be brought in to resolve the concern. Please refer to Sec 3.12 to better understand your rights, or for more information on the process. Please contact the Union if you have any further questions.

SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Cards of Thanks

Anita Carmichael
June Harrison
Deb Johnson
Wendy Kinloch
Mary Lowther
Karen Wigman

Sympathy Cards

Haley Bartram

RETIREMENTS

September:

Wendy Furey
Wayne Macintyre

Bonny Gibson
Balbir Sanghera

Cathy Jones

October:

Sital Dhillon

Kelly Hill

Michelle Tan

Congratulations!

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.

Email to: cupe561@cupe561.ca

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



Door Prize Winners at the October General Meeting

#57—Tara King

#20—Don Duncan

#23—Fran Grant

#45—Rebecca Campesato

#50—Shamus Halvorsen

#13—Damon Bickle



Winners will be contacted by email.