



# Shoptalk



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

November/December 2024

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday December 14, 2024—9:00 am  
VIA ZOOM

Greetings 561 members,

Another fall and winter season is upon us, already having a number of very wet weather events! We look forward to a new year of new ideas, as well as gearing up for three rounds of negotiations over the next year or so. Speaking of bargaining, please remember to scan the QR code that should be on all SD43 site CUPE boards. This will bring you to the site where you can sign a letter to the Minister of Education, asking for more funds be allocated to the K-12 system. This letter is part of the K-12 cost share campaign to address violence in workplace as well as other shortfalls for this next round of negotiations.

We are also excited that our members passed the bylaw change to move from an in person to electronic voting system. This will allow many more of our members to participate in the elections process that may not of been able to in the past. To update you all on the process, our National Union must approve this change to our bylaws. So far, we heard back from our National President and he will approve this change, only once we make a minor amendment. Notice of motion for this amendment will be given at our December general meeting, and will ultimately be discussed and voted on at our January meeting. As my plan is to retire in the relatively near future, I will not be seeking re-election for President. That said, I'm happy to say that there are many very talented and experienced 561 members who could easily step into the position and do an amazing job! Good luck to all of the potential candidates! More election information will be coming in the future.

Our Executive wishes everyone a wonderful winter season with friends and family, and please see the bulletin four our annual Children's Holiday party on December 8th at the Poco Bowling lanes. Hoping for another great turnout!

Best wishes!

Randy Kootte  
President

## **CUPE LOCAL 561 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

|                        |                      |                 |                                     |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| President              | <b>Randy Kootte</b>  | Member At Large | <b>Shamus Halvorsen</b> (SD #43)    |
| Vice-President         | <b>Mike Myers</b>    | Member At Large | <b>Karin Leathwood</b> (SD #43)     |
| Recording Secretary    | <b>Jill Allen</b>    | Member At Large | <b>Donna MacMurchy</b> (Library)    |
| Treasurer              | <b>Darin Nielsen</b> | Member At Large | <b>Carol Archibald</b> (Transdev)   |
| Executive Shop Steward | <b>Jeb Perry</b>     | Member At Large | <b>Shayna McCormack</b> (Diversity) |

# Volunteer Call for the Annual Union Children's Christmas Party!



Help Us Make the Season Bright!



We are excited to host our annual CUPE 561 Children's Christmas Party, and we need *your* help to make it a wonderful celebration! Join us in creating a fun and festive experience for our members and their families.

## Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- ⇒ Event setup and decorating/clean up/ recycle team
- ⇒ Santa's helpers
- ⇒ Supporting the holiday treats, beverages and pizza table
- ⇒ Supporting with gingerbread decorating— experience not required, just bring your holiday spirit!



Date: Sunday December 8  
 Time: 12 pm—4 pm  
 Location: PoCo Bowling Lanes  
 2263 McAlister Ave, Port Coquitlam

Whether you are a seasoned party planner or just eager to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join our volunteer team!

To sign up, or seek more information, please email the Union office at [cupe561@cupe561.ca](mailto:cupe561@cupe561.ca)

Let's make this a Christmas party to remember!

# Email Request

As per our recent bylaw change, the union will be moving to an electronic voting system. Registering your email will ensure you can vote, receive updates and other important union information.



If you have not already done so, please send your **PERSONAL email** to **cupe561@cupe561.ca**



**Employer emails will not be accepted.**

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

## Questions and Answers

- Q.** I am a Caretaker in SD43. If I am on vacation and become ill, can I change my vacation absence to an illness?
- A.** Yes, as per article 6.1., you can change your vacation absence to ill. You must notify your Manager at the time the need arises, and may be required to provide a medical note.
- Q.** I'm a library worker at the City Centre location. Given the unsafe situations we may find ourselves in with violent or inappropriate conduct from patrons, how can we keep ourselves safe?
- A.** Your concerns are absolutely validated, and the Union is working hard to address these concerns. Through the grievance process, we are working with the Employer to ensure our members are not put into dangerous situations. Currently the Employer is working on creating a new Security/Page classification to work at the City Centre location. Once the class spec is completed, the Union will review it before we agree to it. In the meantime, Employees have the right to refuse unsafe work as per Worksafe BC. Please contact your shop stewards or the Union office for more details on the refusal process, or visit Worksafe BC website.

# SICK AND VISITING & GOOD OF THE UNION

Sympathy Cards

Stephen Gregoire  
 Kerry Sandrin  
 Jeremiah Zacharias  
 Sandi Zacharias

Fruit Baskets:

Laura Cacia-Carrillo

Get well wishes:

Kerry Thompson

## RETIREMENTS

September

Rick Barker  
 Pauline Chau  
 Francis Grant  
 Brandy Killacky  
 Lisa Kim  
 Margaret Manyk  
 Paul O'Brien  
 Janet Winship

October

Larry Norman  
 Ram Satendra  
 Karen Tayler-Hill

November

Sherrill Berg



## Initiations

**School District 43**

|                           |                         |                          |                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Juli-Ann Aaron (NHA)      | Jade Araba (CT)         | Alice Au (LISW)          | Sujeang Bang (CT)         |
| Miria Barjasic (SM)       | Laley Daniali (EA)      | Saida Dif (NHA)          | Kim Downey (CL)           |
| Na Drever (NHA)           | Nancy Evenson (CL)      | Man Sze Fan (NHA)        | Samantha Hildebrandt (CL) |
| Wan Jung Hsu (EA)         | Taylor Jordan (CL)      | Kaila Kenyon (LISW)      | Aliya Khan (LISW)         |
| Joon Hee Kwon (NHA)       | Won Hee Kim (EA)        | Benigno Lalicon (CT)     | Nicole Lemessurier (LISW) |
| You Mi Lim (LA)           | Ma Lourdes Lopa (NHA)   | Bruna Lopes (EA)         | Reannan Mantler (NHA)     |
| Olivia Miller (CL)        | Maliheh Moazeni (LISW)  | Julie Newell (NHA)       | Kimberley O'Neill (CL)    |
| Zohreh Rezaee (NHA)       | Sabrina Riccardi (LISW) | Katherine Rinehart (CL)  | Tiffany Seol (LISW)       |
| Sineenuch Taniguchi (NHA) | Julie Tysoe (EA)        | Kateryna Vovchenko (NHA) |                           |

**Coquitlam Public Library**

Livia Marino Horvath (PG)      Amy McInnes (PG)

