CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 8
November 2026
#209 – 6678 152 St., Surrey V3S 7J2
Telephone: 604-576-2873
E-mail: office@cupe728.ca
Fax: 604-576-2871
Website: www.cupe728.ca
Follow us on Twitter@cupe728
www.facebook.com/cupe728
Follow us on Instagram at CUPE728

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
November 18th, 2026 - HYBRID

The November 18th General Membership meeting is at **8:00 p.m.** You can attend ***in-person*** at the union office #207-6678 152 St., Surrey (Turn down 66 A Ave) or ***online Zoom.***

You must pre-register for this meeting using your FIRST AND LAST NAME even if you plan to attend in person as all voting is done through Zoom. You WILL NOT be let into the meeting unless you register using your first and last name.

Register in advance for this meeting: GM ZOOM LINK
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/esW6ZMlHS4OJHHhdp_WyMw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SHOP STEWARDS

If you have an issue or a question pertaining to work, please call your Shop Steward, leave a message on the phone number listed below. They will contact you when they are available. The Union office will only refer you to your Shop Steward.

Clerical – Mike Addy……778-808-3917
Caretaker – Edward Parsotam……604-812-2611
MT - Non-Trades – Cale Hufsmith…….604-813-1799
MT - Trades – Blair Hofer……604-723-1921
School & Community Support
Allan Henricks……604-341-6627
Student Support One (City Centre/Panorama/Sullivan)
Sheila Simpson – 604-818-2019
Student Support Two (Cloverdale/Clayton/Guildford)
Cassie Deezar – 778-808-4483
Student Support Three
(South Surrey/White Rock/Newton/Fleetwood)
Nora Hooper – 778-808-5823

AGENDA

1. 2025 Trustee Audit Report
2. Elect one (1) Young Workers Committee member
3. Elect one (1) member to the Sick Bank & Benefit Fund committee for the term Oct/26 – Oct/29
4. **Notice of Motion:** To donate up to $1,000 to the Surrey Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums

THANK YOU NOTES

Below is a list of members who have sent in a thank you card/email this month after receiving flowers/gift basket or gift from CUPE 728.

Keira S. – scholarship Tishra B. – scholarship
Cayley M. – scholarship Carter M. – scholarship
Nethrashini K. – scholarship
Alexis W. - scholarship

If one of your co-workers is away from work because they have lost a loved one, please contact the union office. We are only notified if a member is away sick from work.





CUPE 728 laid a Remembrance Day Wreath in Cloverdale at the Cenotaph on November 11, 2026.

'Lest We Forget, CUPE Local 728'

PRESIDENT

Well, October was quite a month with municipal elections, provincial elections, and our first run as a third-party campaign. We put in a tremendous amount of work, and while we supported six candidates, only two were elected. It will be interesting to see how the upcoming trustee by-election plays out.

As many of you have already heard, Garry Thind ran for both Trustee and MLA and won both seats. Because an individual cannot hold both roles, this creates a vacancy on the Board of Education, triggering a by-election. There are already rumblings from some corners about trying to avoid holding one, citing the cost — reportedly close to a million dollars — but at this point, a by-election remains the expected process.

Also, in October we had six (6) bargaining dates with the employer, though things were moving slowly we hit momentum in November. In hopes that we could be finished before winter break. Reminder to all that if they are paid on the same cheque that they are not taxed the same therefore it does not move up your tax bracket.

With Remembrance Day on the 11th, and National Aboriginal Veterans Day on the 8th, I hope folks got the opportunity to go to something to acknowledge the folks that fought for our freedoms. We attended the Veterans Square at the Cloverdale Cenotaph to lay a wreath on behalf of our members.

Last month and next month I will be in Toronto, at the Governance Committee for CUPE National. Here we discuss the executive board and leadership structure, constitution and governance practice, local/division/national relationships, sectoral councils and National Committees and Equity and Inclusion.

In October I sat on the Sectoral Council and National Committee group. My focus was to bring attention to K-12 as we are the only sector without a committee and working to address what should be a committee and what should not but also to have a process on how they work and what they do.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy



1st VICE PRESIDENT

October was a busy month for us, we continued our work representing members, strengthening our local, and preparing for the year ahead.

At our last GM we voted to sponsor three families for Christmas through the Christmas Bureau. We also did elections for CLC winter school, congratulations to those who were voted to go. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow. We also did elections for delegates to both the CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council and the New Westminster & District Labour Council. These opportunities help build solidarity and strengthen the voice of CUPE 728 members at the regional and national levels. Reminder if you're on the New West District Labour Council Committee most of the meetings are in person so make sure you mark your calendar for each meeting.

The rest of the month was spent supporting members with workplace concerns, accommodations, return-to-work matters, job postings, classification questions, investigations, and grievances. We also wrapped up our election campaign, congratulations to Laura Lattanzio for becoming our new Trustee representative for White Rock. We look forward to working with her and ensuring we continue to hold our Trustees accountable and build a better relationship to ensure students and CUPE members get what they need and deserve. Due to Provincial Election, there might be a by-election for Trustee's for Garry Thind beat out Gary Begg for the Surrey-Guildford riding and will no longer be able to be a trustee. The matter goes to a judge to decide if they go to the next person on the list with the most votes or a by-election happens. Fingers crossed we get the by-election and people can vote for themselves on who they want to represent them.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE TWO

Well, it's November.

I hope everyone is settling into their routines at school. Remember with cold and flu season in full swing to take care of yourself. I'm looking forward to attending my first conference at BC Fed this November. These are incredible opportunities to connect with other union members. Knowledge makes us stronger.

In solidarity, Melanie Courvoisier

SECRETARY TREASURER

Dear Members,

After eight years of commuting from Abbotsford five or more days a week, I have made the difficult but exciting decision to step away from my role with the union and retire.

In 2018 I came into this position with tremendous energy, drive and ambition, and I am grateful for everything the union has offered me. However, over time, the long commute has taken its toll, and not having the option to work from home has made me realize that a change is needed.

I am genuinely excited about this next chapter and November 18 will be my last General Membership meeting. I leave with sincere gratitude for the opportunities, experiences and, most importantly, the friendships I have made along the way. My hope is that the next Secretary-Treasurer will bring the same enthusiasm and passion I once brought to the role, along with their own ideas and perspective, putting their own stamp on things and making them even better.

Thank you for the memories, the support and the opportunity to be part of this journey. I wish you all the very best in the years ahead.

In solidarity, Cory Hyslop

MAINTENANCE TRADES

Busy, busy, busy. Loads of stuff going on as you all can imagine. I have not been around as much as bargaining is in full swing with many dates gone by and many more to come. I will leave it for the boss to really explain the details and as always I will do my best to answer any questions that I can.

Lots of JJEC work is coming in now and as a reminder to all those who want a review, please remember that this is not a place where your job is compared against another job in a different class or position. It is where your specific job is being reassessed against where it was previously rated. Too often we hear things like "they got a raise, I want a raise", it doesn't work like that. We do not compare your job to another; we compare your job specifications to what you are actually required to do. This, in turn, may or may not result in a raise.

DFC Health and Safety has been putting in some good work as well, trying to become a little more proactive instead of the usual reactive. As always, be safe.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE ONE

Hello everyone!

As we move into November, I would like to acknowledge the recent election results. While the outcome was not what many of us hoped for, it is important that we remain united, respectful, and focused on moving forward together. I would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time, energy, and dedication throughout the election. Now more than ever, collaboration, open communication, and mutual respect are essential as we continue advocating for our members, public education, and the communities we serve.

Our Entertainment Committee is looking forward to bringing members together through our upcoming holiday celebrations. These events provide wonderful opportunities to connect, celebrate our diversity, and strengthen the sense of belonging in our local.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank all our members for their continued dedication, compassion, and hard work. A gentle reminder to take care of yourself and prioritize your mental health and well-being.

Our strength lies in our unity, and our progress depends on our willingness to work together. As your Executive at Large One, I remain committed to supporting our members, promoting inclusion, and ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.

In solidarity, Rabia Waraich

STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

Happy November,

I want to extend a big thank-you to everyone who attended our Student Support meeting on October 29th. We are planning to hold another meeting in late February. If there are any topics you would like us to cover, please reach out to one of your shop stewards with your suggestions.

I also want to remind everyone to continue completing incident reports. These reports are crucial in helping us advocate for additional supports and resources in our schools. Please remember to forward a copy of your completed reports to the union office as well.
Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and support while we spent many long days at the bargaining table with the employer. Your patience throughout this process has been greatly appreciated.

We are only about five weeks away from the holiday break! Keep up the amazing work you do every day in supporting our most vulnerable learners. Your dedication and commitment make a difference.

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

Hello, everyone,

I hope that you had a safe and positive October. Your Bargaining Committee (I am a member) has been very busy and putting in long hours on your behalf. Please watch for the updates and make sure we have your personal email, so you receive all the updates. You can sign up for email at www.cupe728.ca.

I have been busy with member meetings, calls and emails. There have been many calls about duty to accommodate. Please remember that when you return to work these accommodations must be approved. You need to have your doctor fill out the health services form with specific information. Please call if you have questions or concerns.

Keep filling out those incident reports on employer time. Admin or IST can watch your student while you do the form. It is so important that you do these forms for all incidents including near misses and verbal abuse. A heads up the employer will be changing the forms in the new year, see the OH&S Sub-Committee report for more information.

Have a great November!

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

CARETAKERS

Dear Devoted Caretakers, Namaste!

As fall turns into winter, the weather is getting colder. Please stay warm, bundle up, and keep active to maintain your energy and well-being!

As your representative, maintaining open communication and transparency is a top priority. I am here to listen, support, and advocate for you. When you reach out for assistance, and I don't answer please share the exact facts rather than guesses, including key dates and what happened. Clear details help me understand the situation and determine the best way forward.

I also want to be open about my response times right now. My time is heavily focused on ongoing contract negotiations (bargaining). It has taken longer than usual to follow up with Assistant Managers regarding some of your questions. Please know that I have not forgotten about you! I am continuing to talk with Assistant Managers whenever possible to get your answers as quickly as I can. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this busy time. Communication is a two-way street. My commitment to representing you remains as strong as ever, and I will keep doing everything I can to ensure your voices are heard.

Together, we are stronger!

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I want to say it been very busy within the local due to local bargaining we have had 13 days with the employer talking about different issues we work together on to make the working conditions better for everyone.

I been getting a few calls and inquires about leaves of Absences. I want people to understand have to apply for them well n advance and wait for the district to fully approve your leave before you book any travel arrangements. Please do not use your personal sick time to travel, using it for travel could be considered time theft and could lead to discipline. So just please ask in the right way.

I want everyone to be kind and look out for one and be respectful.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks



If you are a **new CUPE 728 member,** in order to be a member in good standing and have the rights to vote, you must have been inducted into the union. If you have not taken the oath, you must attend a general membership meeting held on the third Wednesday of every month. Next meeting is November 18, 2026.

Please go to www.cupe728.ca and sign up with your personal email to receive important information and updates from the union



COMMITTEE CORNER

Human Rights & Equity

The Committee is working hard at getting together to meet. We look forward to bringing more committee info to our members over this next year. In the meantime, we want to remind our members for some of the following dates that are coming up and will have some more details on www.cupe728.ca

- October is both National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- November is Movember along with 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- December has World Aids Day, International Day for Abolition of Slavery and International Day of Persons with Disability.

Wellness Committee

I had a meeting with the Wellness Committee on Oct 8, 2026. They are going to launch a new interactive Wellness Website. Better than what we had with Telus and the one before that. It's called 'Not Myself Today' and we were able to see the portal. It's put on by Canadian Mental Health. It's NOT for diagnosis or to be used in place of actual therapy. It's all about education, awareness, and self-reflection. There are tips of the week, modules, digital mood board, video resources, worksheets, games and more. The resources will be downloadable, unlike it was previously. While I realize this is another thing to log into, I really do like this platform and was super impressed with the resources, confidentiality, interactiveness and that it looked really easy to use/navigate.

We are hoping to have an 'Ambassador' at each site that will be the contact person that information can be sent to at the schools. This person will be sent resources that can be printed out and posted or be forwarded to staff. This info will come from HR. This is fully confidential.

Questions that I had asked and am waiting for a response:

- Will the Ambassadors get Mental Health First Aid Training?
- How would Spareboard people get the info if they are not assigned to a school?
- Will there be ways to tailor resources to teachers, support staff, custodial staff etc.?

We are also looking at doing the Wellness Bingo again. The next meeting is early November.

Thank you, Marcey Campbell

Health & Safety

The Health and Safety Committee would like to let everyone know the district is in the process of changing the incident reporting platform. Come January 2027, the new system will be part of the new employee software system the district is rolling out. The incident reporting is the first step. The new online form is more interactive with photos and different options that will assist everyone in reporting incidents as well as near misses. So please take the time to learn the new system when you are given the chance to do so. This will help all of us to have a safe working environment.







Lest We Forget.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
— John McCrae (May 3, 1915)

CUPE728 became a third-party organization for the Municipal Elections and we created the www.BetterSurreySchools.com website and postcards to help with the voting process. I want to personally thank each and every person that got out and voted in the Municipal election. I also want to thank each and every one of our volunteers. To get out and help with the Better Surrey Schools took a lot of dedication, a lot of hours and a lot of walking! A BIG THANK YOU to Shannon, Tammy, Theresa and all the volunteers.

Thank you, Marcey Campbell

WELLNESS WORKING GROUP

I am pleased to say that the Wellness Working Group is active again. Thank you to the School Board Trustee Committee for bringing this forward at one of the last few meetings. This Working Group is made up of CUPE728, STA and Health Services. Going forward, we will be putting out wellness resources and making sure there are health and wellness pro-d events. We will be working to make sure that schools have access to these resources as well. If you have any suggestions, please email office@cupe728.ca

Respectfully Submitted, Marcey Campbell



National Indigenous Veterans Day is observed on November 8 each year in Canada. This day honors the contributions of First Nations, Inuit, ans Metis veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces. It was first observed in 1994 and has since spread Nationwide. The day recognizes the military service of Indigenous men and women, particularly during the First World War, Second World War, and Korean War. It also acknowledges the challenges faced by Indigenous veterans upon returning home, including discrimination and unequal treatment compared to other Canadian Veterans. The day is a time for reflection, healing, and celebration of indigenous identity within the broader Canadian military history.

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

There will be an End Violence Against Women Candlelight Vigil at Holland Park in Surrey from approximately 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The vigil honours the women who were killed in the 1989 École Polytechnique tragedy and remembers all victims of gender-based violence.

Event details:

Date: Sunday, December 6, 2026

Time: Approximately 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Holland Park, Surrey, BC

Cost: Free and open to the public

