

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 51 – Issue 7
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Sept 2024
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sept 18th, 2024

The Sept 18th General Membership meeting is an ONLINE meeting at 8:00p.m.

You must pre-register for this meeting using your FIRST AND LAST NAME. You WILL NOT be let into the meeting unless you register using your first and last name.

Register in advance for these meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAtf-i0qj4sHtQ5np0YPTrtzD7VxB6nmQNu>

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.

IESW Elementary – Cassie Deezar.....778-808-4483
IESW Sec/Sparesboard
Amanda Williams.....604-818-2019
Clerical - Shannon Levinsky.....778-808-3917
Caretaker – Edward Parsotam.....604-812-2611
MT - Non-Trades – Liam Hawthorne.....604-813-1799
MT - Trades – Blair Hofer.....604-723-1921
School & Community Support
Allan Henricks.....604-341-6627
Student Support – Nora Hooper.....778-808-5823

CUPE 728 Collective Agreement is available to view online, or a hard copy is available for pick-up at the Union office:

<https://cupe728.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/168/2023/09/SD-36-Surrey-CUPE-Local-728-Collective-Agreement-2022-2025-FINAL--002.pdf>

AGENDA

All Motions must be submitted in writing

1. Elect Standing Committees:
 - Elect one (1) member to the Health & Safety Sub-Committee
 - Elect two (2) members to the Young Workers Committee
 - Elect one (1) member to the Pension Committee
 - Elect two (2) members to the Young Workers committee.
2. Elect one (1) Trustee to finish out term 2022 – 2025.
3. Elect up to fourteen (14) members to the CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council.
4. Elect up to eleven (11) members to the New West & District Labour Council.
5. Elect ten (10) Members to attend the BC FED Convention in Vancouver from November 25 – 29, 2024.
6. ***Notice of Motion:*** To spend up to \$7,000 for the December 7, 2024 Children’s Holiday party.
7. ***Notice of Motion:*** To spend up to \$2,500 on the Welcome Back BBQ Oct 5, 2024.
8. ***Notice of Motion:*** For CUPE 728 to spend up to \$42,000 for the CUPE 728 membership Annual Adult Holiday Party which consists of coverage of entry for members that attend 5 of 11 meetings from October 2023 to November 2024

The Thomas G. Ellis Memorial & CUPE Local 728 Scholarships

Applications are due by September 27, 2024
Application is available at the union office or on the CUPE website www.cupe728.ca.

PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a great school start-up and that everyone had sometime this summer to relax. Thank you to our 12-month employees who worked hard this summer to get things going so we could start up this September. Welcome back to all our 10-month employees.

Thank you to those who were able to attend our open house, we had lots of familiar faces here and it was good to see you all. For those who didn't have a chance to pop by we hope you can attend our next GM.

We have started our stop-contracting-out campaign, and our signs have been on billboards and bus stops. We also had the opportunity to discuss this with politicians and members at our open house. We also attended the Labour Day event with CUPE and explained what was happening and signed people up.

Please remember that schools are closed on September 30th, in recognition of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation which honours those who survived residential schools and those who never came home. We wear orange shirts to raise awareness and to show support. There will be many events taking place throughout the province, if you get the opportunity, please attend one.

Bargaining is on hold till after the elections. We start with provincial and will then go into local bargaining. Remember we get our money in provincial bargaining; these elections are very important. In the last 2 rounds of bargaining, we received raises under the NDP government. Before that, we received 10 years of nothing. Go out and vote and know what you are voting for.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

1st VICE PRESIDENT

The start of a new school year! I hope everyone had some time to relax and spend time with family and friends. The summer has flown by. In July we did a step 2 meeting with the employer, we also had a mediated arbitration and settled for a member. Currently we have around 45 active grievances. I did come in and cover the president while she was on Holidays.

Over the summer I met with friends, many of whom work for SD 36. The discussion is usually about family and how our summer is going, but being an executive, the conversation does come around to work and issues people are having.

One thing that seems to be coming up in the conversation is workplace relationships and how difficult they have been this last school year. Many people are finding it harder and harder to connect and get along. I know life can be stressful and so can our jobs, I just want to remind everyone to be nice to each other.

We are all doing the best we can, and you don't always know what others are going through, what it took them to get to work today, or what they have to deal with at home.

If you have concerns or are struggling with someone, reach out to your shop steward, and ask for help, especially if you are being bullied or harassed. Do not be afraid to come forward, no matter who is bullying you. Everyone has the right to a safe workspace free of bullying and harassment.

If you need to vent about a situation, do it outside the workplace and with someone who is not a co-worker, but can be a trusted friend or family member, your shop steward, or even a counselor. Everyone deserves respect and should feel safe at work.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

Acting Secretary-Treasurer

Generally, over the summer months I spend the vast majority of my time doing my own job refinishing floors for the district. However, this past summer our Secretary Treasurer has been away which has given me an opportunity to fill in for Cory. Now I must admit that I'm not used to spending much time at the Union office but wanted to share my experiences with everyone. I was taken back at just how much goes on in the background in the office. I was very pleasantly surprised at just how much advocacy our Move-Up staff provides for our members. Whether it's engaging the district to fight for our members who require assistance for medical issues or administering the Sick Bank. The list is extensive, and having spent the summer in the office I just wanted to give them a shout out and tell them how well they do their jobs.

Thanks Laura and Carol... appreciated.

In solidarity, George Hardy 2nd Vice President

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone had a well rested summer break. I would like to thank all of the staff who took part in summer programs and got the schools ready for all the students and staff to return to this school year.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the opening of our new office in August. These facilities will help us grow as a local and is more centrally located in Surrey. We have a more accessible meeting space for all of the membership to utilize over the coming years.

I want the School and Community Support staff to know that I am here to assist you when you have concerns at your workplace. Please reach out by email, text, or leave a message on my voicemail and I will return your call in a timely manner. Emailing is the best I find because it is a good way of keeping track of the information that you provide me. When you do email me, please use your personal email address not your district issued email so that the information you share with me stays confidential. Just a reminder that I can't answer my phone during my own working hours. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks

MAINTENANCE TRADES

Happy New (School) Year!!! Let those work orders flow. I'm going to warn you this may come off a bit sappy, but I have a wish/goal for us. I would love if for this year with bargaining considerations ahead, (please email the union office with suggestions) that we as a unit put our best effort forward in work and attitudes to show our often under appreciated worth and value to the people who rely on our services and management.

If we can help each other and other units within the union in spite of management blunders and oversights maybe we can squeeze a little juice out of that rock when we put pen to paper.

The change to operational day shifts has only been deemed a trial period for now, so expect that to change later in the year just in time to mess with your childcare when management changes their position on the matter. We will fight for you if this happens, for better or worse.

As always, be safe. Have a great school year.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

I would like to welcome all our new members and returning members to this upcoming school year. Don't forget, if you are a new support worker to SD36, you are a part of CUPE728. Be sure to attend all monthly meetings so that you know what is going on with YOUR Union.

We are coming up to Bargaining so please be sure to email the Union Office your suggestions, providing as much details as possible.

Thank you to everyone that put their names forward for committees in June. Can't wait to see what our committees have planned for this upcoming year.

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our website as we are always working hard to make sure our members are informed.

Respectfully submitted by Marcey Campbell

STUDENT SUPPORT

I hope you all had a fun and restful summer! As we begin the 24/25 school year, I wanted to wish you all the best for this year. These first few weeks can be very stressful for everyone with classes still being sorted out and schedules constantly changing. Please try to be patient with our other staff members and students and give your self a break as well.

This summer was quite quiet with the majority of calls being about leaves of absence. Please do not book holidays during school times prior to your leave being approved. If it is denied, and you go, you will face discipline and possibly lose your job!

I look forward to another year working with you all.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

MAINTENANCE NON-TRADES

Welcome back! Another school year begins, and we all get back to the normal routine. Some of you enjoyed the time off and others unfortunately were working understaffed. The union is aware about this deficiency and special thanks to those members that spoke up and contacted us.

The quickest way to get a hold of me is to use this email: ssmaintnontrades@cupe728.ca. Write the particulars of any incident down while it is fresh in your mind. Bullet points work well it does not need to be an essay.

Currently we are short equipment operators and at least 1 groundskeeper. The company is aware that we know, and we had a hard time addressing it during the summer due to vacations interfering with scheduling meetings. To be clear the union is aware of this deficiency and has contacted the company about it. In the meantime, for those of us that are having difficulty coping with this issue or any issue/event in your life the EAP is an excellent resource. It is confidential and easily available. You can contact them here: 1-888-625-1136 or Online: www.onetelushealth.com.

Have a great September and remember it is our union. Speak up when needed and help each other. This is a bargaining year. Stick together.

In Solidarity, Liam Hawthorne



CLERICAL

Welcome back everyone!

As I sit here and write this, it's hard to believe we're back already. I felt like we didn't even have a summer! I hope you all had some time to rest and relax and spend time with those you love.

Well, 24/25 school year is here, and we are off and running already. Just a quick reminder, if you are emailing with questions or concerns, please be sure to email me from a personal email to ssclerical@cupe728.ca as the district owns our work email.

Please keep me in the loop about coverage and if you're getting replacement, if you aren't aware, September is 1st day replacement. We also have the clerical support fund that we achieved in the last round of bargaining that is ongoing and forever! Please remember to check off replacement required when you're doing your request in employee self-serve.

Our first GM of this school year is happening in 2 short weeks. Mark your calendars!! (Always the 3rd Wednesday of the month except during Spring Break). Hopefully some of you can come out and check out our new office at 6678 152nd street office, suite #209. It's a beautiful space, and hopefully you can make it out to a GM soon.

Another reminder!! October 19th is quickly approaching!! That is election day!!! We want to elect a government that is LABOUR friendly as we are already in another round of bargaining!! We have started out this year with another healthy increase in wages and we want to continue to go up, not see 0's like in previous years with "the other guys". If you have questions please reach out!!

Sadly we lost a clerical member unexpectedly recently. Anissa was very helpful when clerical was in dire straits a few years ago. Please hug those you love. Take nothing for granted. Remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SUPPORT WORKERS (IESW) SECONDARY/SPAREBOARD

Another new School Year has begun!!

I hope everyone had a restful, rejuvenating & fun summer. Welcome back to your 10-month members and thank you to all our 12-month members for keeping everything running & making sure it is all ready for the 1st day of school.

With a new school year comes some familiar faces along with new faces of staff & students. The simple things such as a smile, kind words or acknowledgement can make a difference in someone's day.

There has been lots of questions regarding the IESW Call Out Board. We do not have a firm date on when the Call Out Board will be active, however, we are hoping for October this year. Please keep an eye on your e-mails, district & personal, union & district web pages, union Facebook page, and dates & times for IESW Unit Meetings. Please ensure that the Union has your personal e-mail so you are getting the most up-to-date information.

As the School year gets underway it is important to remember that your Shop Stewards are getting back in it the swing of things as well. DO NOT contact your Shop Stewards at their; schools, district e-mail, TEAMS or their personal social media accounts/messenger. If you are unsure of who your Shop Steward is or contact information please check out our web page for all contact information. www.cupe728.ca.

Happy 2024-2025 School Year!! 🍌🍌🍌

In solidarity, Amanda Williams

CARETAKERS

Welcome back, caretakers! As you return to work after a well-deserved summer break, it's important to focus on the tasks ahead. But just as crucial is keeping an eye on the upcoming political election. The decisions made by our elected officials will have a direct impact on our working conditions, pay, and benefits. This election is not just about who will lead our government, but also about the future of collective bargaining rights. The outcome could shape the environment in which we negotiate our contracts and advocate for better working conditions.

Your voice and vote matter. By staying informed and participating in the election, we can ensure that our interests are represented and that the rights of caretakers are upheld in the legislative process.

With that in mind, we encourage you to attend the upcoming **Caretaker Unit meeting on September 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Union Office.** This meeting will be an important opportunity to discuss how the election results could influence our bargaining strategies moving forward. Let's come together, share our insights, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Your involvement is key to securing a fair and equitable future for all caretakers.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

COMMITTEE CORNER

Human Rights and Equity Committee

Please keep your eyes on the CUPE 728 website under the Human Rights and Equity page as we will be adding articles and podcasts in the upcoming month, which will have all kinds of positive and progressive information.

October 5, 2024, we will be hosting our movie day open to all friends and family. More information will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

Entertainment Committee

Save the date October 5, 2024, welcome back barbeque. More information will be provided on our website and Facebook page.

Political Action Committee

It is evident that this election is going to be very important to all working members so please mark your calendars as **October 19** is election day. There will be advanced voting polls. Please check your registration and go out and vote!

OH & S Sub Committee

With the start of the new school year upon us we wanted to remind you to stay safe in the workplace. Use proper lifting techniques when moving items, follow proper procedures when using equipment, make sure safety plans are in place and updated and report all incidents, even near hits, or witnessing violence. These first few weeks are very chaotic and stressful so make sure you are taking care of your mental and physical health. Take your breaks!

The Committee plans to do some Zoom call in sessions this fall so watch for those dates to be announced.

Also if you are on your site OH & S Committee, make sure you get your training as quickly as possible, If you have questions about your role on the committee, or concerns about how it is being operated contact us at healthsafety@cupe728.ca.

Have a safe year!

In solidarity; Nora Hooper

SAVE THE DATES

Movie Night/Welcome Back BBQ – October 5, 2024

Children's Holiday Party – December 7, 2024

More information will be emailed out to members and posted on the [cupe728 website](http://cupe728.ca). www.cupe728.ca

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.

Zilah R. – sympathy	Carol A. – get well
Lynne T. – sympathy	Shanseeda A. – retirement
Shannon L. – sympathy	Cory H. – get well
Alison B. - sympathy	Diane R. – retirement
Local 1091 – congratulations	
Maxine F. - retirement	

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.



CUPE728 LOGO REDESIGN CONTEST

It's time for CUPE728 to update their logo and we want your input!

**CONTEST IS OPEN UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL
MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES

EMAIL IN YOUR LOGOS TO
OFFICE@CUPE728.CA

CUPE728

RULES

1. One entry per family member
2. There are 3 prizes totaling \$500
3. Semi-finalists will be selected and awarded \$100 each
4. The 'Member Choice' will be awarded an additional \$200

Additional Information

5. The entry should acknowledge the Indigenous heritage of the lands on which your local operates
6. CUPE728 is made up from a diverse group of peoples. The logo should be representative of those diversities



BARGAINING PROPOSALS

If you have any bargaining suggestions, please email them to the office office@cupe728.ca.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, explore the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

Start your learning journey today.

Huy ch q'u. Huy tseep q'u. Thank you.
Meegwetch
Hiy Hiy



ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30

***In support of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
We request that you wear an orange shirt at the September 18, 2024, General membership meeting***

ELECTION

Important dates and timelines for the 2024 B.C. election

Here are some important dates and timelines to know about the 2024 provincial election, including voting deadlines and campaign milestones

When does campaigning start?

Writ day is when an election is officially called and when the campaign period begins. This year, it falls on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

When is the nomination deadline?

The deadline for parties to nominate candidates or for independent candidates to put their names forward is Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, at 1 p.m.

When does voter registration close?

You can register in advance online or by phone until midnight on Oct. 7, 2024. After that, you'll have to register on arrival when you go to vote. Registering in advance will streamline the process when you visit a voting station. You can find out more about how to register as a voter or to check your voter registration [online here](#).

When does advance voting start?

Advance voting will take place Oct. 10 to 13 (Thursday to Sunday) and Oct. 15 to 16 (Tuesday to Wednesday), 2024.

A preliminary list of advance voting stations has been [posted online by Elections B.C. here](#). These locations may change and an updated list will be posted closer to the election.

When does mail-in voting start?

Requesting mail-in voting packages: Online and phone requests for mail-in voting packages can be made beginning July 23, 2024, and in-person requests can be made beginning Sept. 21, 2024. The deadline to request a mail-in voting package is 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024.

