

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING **September 17th, 2025 - HYBRID**

The Sept 17th 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/Pv1l0cO-TvuTIyyxyH1NA>

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/Spareboard

Sheila Simpson.....604-818-2019

Clerical - Shannon Levinsky.....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 – Nora Hooper.....778-808-5823

AGENDA

1. Elect up to fourteen (14) members to the CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council.
2. Elect up to eleven (11) members to the New West & District Labour Council.
3. Elect one (1) member to the District Health & Safety Committee
4. Elect one (1) member to the Health & Safety Sub-Committee
5. Elect one (1) Sergeant-at-Arms
6. Elect four (4) members to attend Fall Weeklong School in Nanaimo from Nov 3 to 6, 2025.
7. ***Notice of Motion:*** \$40,000 for a CUPE 728 Cultural Celebration

UNION PROPOSALS

RATIFICATION MEETING

September 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Online ZOOM – please pre-register for this meeting through the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/UorWe295SruX1ojj0oMRWw>

Please contact your Executive Shop Stewards if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to your job and/or the Collective Agreement.

DO NOT email them through your Surrey schools' email, or to their Surrey schools' email.

YOU MUST use a personal email and direct it to your shop stewards ***UNION*** email.

Shop Stewards ***WILL NOT*** answer their union phones during working hours, please try to call during non-working hours or leave a message.

PRESIDENT

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone had a smooth start to the school year and found time to relax over the summer. A heartfelt thank you to our 12-month employees who worked tirelessly to prepare for September's launch, and a warm welcome back to our 10-month employees.

Please remember our Welcome Back/STOP Contracting Out BBQ on Saturday, September 20th, which will now be combined with our previously cancelled Movie Night. This was cancelled originally due to the Atmospheric River. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Location to be announced.

We also joined CUPE at the Labour Day event to raise awareness for our Stop Contracting Out campaign and sign-up supporters. Hope people got the opportunity to attend a Labour Day event.

On September 30th, in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honours survivors of residential schools and those who never returned home. Wearing orange shirts is a powerful way to show support and raise awareness. If you have the chance, we encourage you to attend one of the many events happening across the province.

Bargaining Update

Provincial negotiations are ramping up again in September. We begin with provincial bargaining, followed by local. Our stewards (including our 10 months) came in 3 days this summer to finalise our proposals. We will ratify our proposals on September 13th at 10:00 a.m. on ZOOM. Remember, provincial bargaining is where we secure financial gains; Local bargaining is where we make gains that are specific to our Local. We will provide as many updates as possible. Please ensure we have your email address to send you all the info as it unfolds.

Lastly, your Executive and our office staff continue to work hard and collaboratively to support all members. If you have concerns, please reach out to your Shop Stewards. We're here to help. Please remember your stewards all work for the district as well and can not deal with Union things while they are working. Please join me in thanking our Executive team and our office staff for their dedication to you and your Union.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

1st VICE PRESIDENT

During the months of July and August, I focused some of my time on grievances. I prepared for bargaining and took on the role of acting president while Tammy was on vacation. I worked on Step 2 and Step 3 grievances, which involved calls, emails, and meetings with HR and our members. We held several bargaining sessions in August to get ready for our upcoming meeting with all of you in September. I did manage to take some time off, going camping a few times and even had the chance to visit Mexico for a week. The situation was a bit hectic due to the Air Canada strike, but we managed to sort everything out, and I was pleased to go. I am very happy for the Air Canada employees for securing their deal, which they still need to vote on. Many of us from our local attended the rally in Vancouver in July to support the Air Canada flight attendants.

Currently, we have 31 grievances. Out of these, 5 are in arbitration, and we just settled one for one of our members. The other 4 grievances are interconnected and will be arbitrated soon, and they are in capable hands with our lawyer. We have three new grievances to present in Step 2, and I have arranged a date with the employer for this. Additionally, we have several grievances to present in Step 3, and we will also set a date in September for that presentation to the employer. The remaining grievances are under review for the next steps. We have successfully resolved a few grievances that we agreed upon with the employer, including some related to contracting out.

Our movie night, originally scheduled for August 15th, had to be canceled due to severe torrential rain. We plan to resume it on September 20th, and further details will be provided as soon as everything is finalized. We apologize to the members of CUPE 728 and CUPE 402 for the cancellation.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, and I wish you all a fantastic 2025/2026 year.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock



MAINTENANCE TRADES

For those who've been on holidays, welcome back to the grind. For those of you who weren't away, thanks for all you've done over the past months. Let's get to it then. Proposal ratification meeting is set for September 13 online at 10:00 a.m. This is only for our proposals not the CBA but is necessary to move forward in bargaining. The bargaining team has put in some dedicated and focused time this summer working on these and need your collective feedback.

Now for some more day-to-day happenings, there has been word around that vehicle walk arounds are coming as a mandated daily action. Not a major issue really but it is however a good idea to do regardless of it being a mandated policy or not. Doing so before leaving protects you from baseless claims of negligence and at a school site it keeps everyone a little bit safer to boot.

It's going to be a busy time this year and I will be reaching out to HR to set up time slots around both the holiday and year end meals for in person unit meetings for us to have discussions. Be safe.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

MAINTENANCE NON-TRADES

Hope everyone had a chance to take some time off and relax in the sunshine. It's been a busy summer for the union. We spent several days putting together the bargain proposals. Mark your calendars for September 13th. There will be a meeting to vote on our proposals for this round of bargaining. We need your votes so we can present these proposals to management and get the ball rolling. Hope to see everyone there!

In Solidarity, Cale Hufsmith

EXECUTIVE AT LARGE

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Sept 30, 2025

Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful summer!

We have enclosed some information for Sept 30 on Truth and Reconciliation. Please check out the website Great stories and tools from Sept 22 to 26, Lunch & Learned <https://nctr.ca/>

In Solidarity, Debra Merrier

COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Welcome Back! I hope everyone was able to take some time to relax over the summer break. A BIG thank you to all the Caretakers and Maintenance members that worked over the summer to keep our schools and sites looking great. Thank you to the Clerical and IESWs that worked the summer school sessions. I attended the Wellness Committee in July and will be working towards bring more information to our members. I was also happy to be involved in many discussions on how the weekly Memo's can be more streamlined. Also, if you have a WCB claim, please search WCB on our website for some tips to help with your claim.

In solidarity, Marcey Campbell

CARETAKERS

BULA Fellow Caretakers,

Over the summer, many of you went above and beyond deep cleaning classrooms, tackling maintenance projects, and preparing our schools for a safe, clean start to the year. Your hard work and commitment do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do.

CUPE continues to advocate for improved staffing levels and manageable workloads. If you're feeling overwhelmed or have safety concerns, report them and reach out to your shop steward. **Solidarity begins with communication.**

728 is also pushing for greater recognition of the vital work caretakers provide. If you've received positive feedback or want to recognize a fellow member, let us know. It's important to celebrate each other's efforts.

Join us at the next Saturday meeting on September 13th this is your chance to speak up, vote on proposals, and help move important requests forward.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

THANK YOU NOTES FROM MEMBERS

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.

B. Dayal – Sympathy J. Nygard - Retirement
E. Slabicka – Retirement D. Rose – Retirement
C. Hyslop – Get well

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.



IESW SECONDARY/SPAREBOARD

Welcome back! I'm thrilled to have earned your trust as the new shop steward for high school/spareboard. I hope you all had an incredible summer, rejuvenating and refreshing your spirits, and are now ready to tackle the new school year with enthusiasm. It's been an exhilarating journey so far as the new SS and I'm eager to continue learning and growing. I hope your school year has started on a high note. I know that despite the challenges posed by cutbacks and pressures of supporting many students with limited resources, we can rise above them and make a real difference. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me anytime. I'm committed to responding promptly and exploring ways to support you.

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

SECRETARY TREASURER

Hello everyone and welcome to the new school year 😊

As at July 31:

- We had 4530 dues paying members of which 1400 were 37.5 hours per week and 8 were new hires
- Had a total of 591 members off 6 days or longer due to illness or injury
- We are in line with our budget expectations
- In 2024 we received 874 referrals for members away 6 days or more for illness or injury, 33% of those members returned to work in less than 30 days

In Solidarity, Cory Hyslop, Secretary Treasurer

CLERICAL

Hello September!!

Well, I'm hoping all of you had an amazing summer. Welcome back to our 10-month employees and thank you so much to all our twelve-month employees for all you do for us.

We did some bargaining work over the summer and are excited to share what we have done at the ratification meeting on September 13th, 2025. This is an online meeting on zoom, so please mark your calendars and save the date.

We have clerical members in schools that are being asked to prepare food for students. We do not believe this is clerical work and are working with the employer to come up with a solution. Please let me know by email from your personal email. If you've been asked to do this work.

Reminder to all members that we do not respond to emails from the school district email account asking questions, because the district owns the email. Please send all emails from your personal email to ssclerical@cupe728.ca

We are excited to be hosting our welcome back barbecue, STOP contracting out event and movie night on September 20th! Stay tuned for location details.

September is the time for first day replacement, so please let me know if you are not getting covered.

I just wanted to quickly mention the power of the people. Air Canada went on strike and were then ordered back to work by the Federal Government. Our CUPE National President Mark Hancock said no. That was not acceptable to him. He risked going to jail for CUPE members. Surprisingly (not really), within a few hours, they had come to an agreement. This is power. We, the workers have power. Let's not forget, we are always stronger together!! Thank you all for all you do!! You are appreciated!!

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky



Article : National Truth and Reconciliation Day

How great is it that we reside in a nation that recognizes many ethnic cultural days of recognition? What's been identified is that visitors who have come to Turtle Island have brought their beliefs and celebrations and passed them on to Canadians to highlight and celebrate. Even those who were brought here for work, to build infrastructure and transportation, and those who came with families, are now celebrating or highlighting their own cultures and traditions.

But what about those who have been here on Turtle Island long before any of us?

What about the First Peoples — the original stewards of this land since time immemorial?

Are there days that Canada has officially recognized to honor them? Yes, but until recently, these days have often been overlooked or forgotten by many. One of the most important among them is National Truth and Reconciliation Day, also known as Orange shirt day, observed each year on September 30.

This day is not just symbolic, it's a sad reminder of a painful and often hidden part of Canadian history: the residential school system, which operated for over 150 years. During this time, more than 150,000 Indigenous children were taken from their families and forced into government- and church-run schools with the intent to erase their language, culture, and identity. Many faced neglect and abuse.

Thousands did not survive.

Truth and Reconciliation Day is about acknowledging that truth. It's a time for all of us — Indigenous and non-Indigenous — to learn, reflect, and engage in conversations that move us toward understanding, healing, and meaningful change. It's not just about history, it's about the present and the future. It's about honouring the strength and resilience of Survivors and their families. It's about recognizing that reconciliation is not a destination; it's a process that requires ongoing effort, respect, and action.

As we continue to celebrate the diverse cultural fabric of this country, let us also ensure we are not ignoring or sidelining the foundational cultures upon which this land was built. Let us elevate Indigenous voices, stories, and truths — not just on September 30, but throughout the year. Reconciliation starts with awareness — and awareness begins with listening.

Written by the Human Rights & Equity Committee on behalf of CUPE728

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

<https://nctr.ca/>



ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30

APPLICATION

THOMAS G. ELLIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

AND

CUPE LOCAL 728 SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships are offered to Local 728 member's children graduating from Grade 12 in June 2025.

*I am applying for the following Scholarships: **Please check box(s) below that you're applying for***

The Thomas G. Ellis Memorial Scholarship for two thousand (\$2,000) dollars

CUPE Local 728 Scholarship for one thousand (\$1,000) dollars

Two (2) one thousand (\$1,000) Scholarships for students who identify as Indigenous

Two (2) five hundred (\$500) dollar scholarships to be awarded by random draw
(exclusive of the successful recipients of the two preceding scholarship awards).

Applications should be submitted with written notification of acceptance from a post-secondary educational facility, accompanied by a transcript of your marks as received from the Ministry of Education in Victoria and the completed form below, not later than September 26, 2025.

Return to: office@cupe728.ca

NAME OF APPLICANT

PARENT/GUARDIAN

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

BIRTHDATE

SCHOOL ATTENDED

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE APPLICANT PLANS TO ATTEND

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE SOUGHT

