

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 1
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Jan 2026
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING **January 21st, 2026 - HYBRID**

The Jan 21st 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/meeting/register/uavAwWoBO8OwaOj0OAmusQ>

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*** a Second Vice President
2. ***Elect*** one (1) member to the Constitution & Bylaw Committee
3. ***Elect*** one (1) member to the District Health & Safety Committee

ATTENTION ALL IESW & STUDENT SUPPORT

Important Update on Shop Stewards

Changes coming:

- IESW Shop Stewards and Student Support will amalgamate
- Representation will be divided into 3 zones to cover all Student Support

Stay tuned for emails and check our website for updates

Please ensure we have your personal email address on file. Register it through www.cupe728.ca



Stewards will only respond to emails directed to their Union email (@cupe728.ca) and phone calls to their union phone during non-working hours. **Emails sent to the employer email WILL NOT BE ANSWERED, as no union business is ever done through your district email.**

PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had the opportunity to spend some quality time with their loved ones over the holidays. A huge thank you to those who worked during the break, ensuring that schools are ready for reopening and getting all those things done that are so difficult to do when students and other staff are around.

What a busy and eventful December. The Entertainment Committee worked tirelessly to put on an amazing children's Party with record-breaking numbers and an unbelievable Cultural Event, which was outstanding. If you had the opportunity to attend, I am sure you would agree that the entertainment was amazing.

As we move into the new year, we anticipate an interesting period of bargaining, especially with the recent reports of possible job action from our dedicated paramedics. This has been a tough round for everyone. Hang in there and remember the battles that our siblings in other unions take will always affect us. Stay strong and support them. We all need this. I cannot emphasize the importance of showing solidarity and support for other unions.

We still do not have dates at the local table, as we are still in negotiations at the provincial table. As we are all negotiating with the same government when others come to an impasse or difficulties, we need to establish room for them to work through it. Please be patient and flexible. Negotiations can be lengthy and unpredictable.

2026 is going to be a great year with many changes and challenges. As I approach the new year with optimism and a willingness to adapt to changes and challenges, we all need to see them as opportunities for growth.

We got this!

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

1st VICE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone enjoyed time with loved ones over the holidays.

Early December was busy, with two grievance meetings, two new grievances filed, and one withdrawn.

Student Support members: please make sure you mark yourself as available on Employee Self Serve (ES and check the Teams group for work opportunities. If you miss or drop a call, notify dispatch and update Teams chat. Contact your shop steward if you need help.

I covered for the president for two days and had a quiet Christmas. I attended the caretaker luncheon, which featured a turkey meal—thanks to management for organizing it. Unfortunately, I missed the luncheon for DFC staff.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Wishing you a successful 2026. May the best of this year be the worst of next. May your triumphs outweigh your mistakes, and your mistakes lead you to your triumphs.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

CLERICAL

Hello all!!

Welcome 2026!! Hoping you all had a great holiday spending time with those that mean the most to you.

You may have seen on our social media "Wear Red For BCED". This is very important for us all to do to show solidarity that we all stand together while we are bargaining and at all times for that matter. ❤️ 💪 We will be doing this every Monday for the month of January!

Thank you to the membership for voting for me to attend the CLC Winter School this month. I will be providing a report on what I learn so be sure to attend the February General Membership Meeting. They are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Let's make that our resolution this year to attend the General Membership Meetings and to learn more about the work we do. After all we all have a say. We are all the union!!

Thank you for all you do!! ❤️ Happy New Year everyone!! Remember to be kind to yourselves and each other.

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

WEAR RED FOR BCED



MAINTENANCE TRADES

Welcome to 2026, here's to making this place a better work environment, more enjoyable and hopefully more profitable. Hopefully the government stops jerking us around and we can make some progress in our contract negotiations. As always be safe.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Financial Information:

We have successfully closed our 2025 fiscal year exceeding expectations. I am preparing the files for the trustees in hopes the audit can be completed prior to spring break.

Dues Report:

On the 10th of each month, we received the dues deposit from the employer for the previous month.

November 30, 2025, SD36 dues report shows:

- 5529 unique employee numbers
- 27 newly initiated members
- 4636 total members that paid dues
- 1294 have a 37.5-hour work week.

JEIS - PEHT - Absent due to illness or injury 6+ days

Stats:

As at our December JEIS meeting:

- 115 LTD active
- 131 T & P
- 23 LTD Pending
- 170 JEIS

PEBT Stats:

As at end November:

- 96 members referred to the JEIS benefits program
- 40 members returned to work after a 6+ days or longer absence
- 5 members JEIS suspended
- 15 members transitioned to LTD

Our benefits are available and explained in depth here:

<https://www.pebt.ca/school-district/school-disitrc-36/>

and our collective agreement (between the employee and the employer) is available at www.cupe728.csa under the resources tab.

In solidarity, Cory Hyslop

MAINTENANCE NON-TRADES

Happy New Year, everyone!

I hope everyone got plenty of rest this holiday season. I was on vacation for several weeks, so I don't have much to report. We had some more bargaining prep in December but didn't get a chance to sit down with our employer and start bargaining. Stay tuned to the CUPE728 website for updates as they come. As always, if you have questions or concerns you can reach me through email, text or phone call.

In solidarity, Cale Hufsmith



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

All I can say is WOW! What an amazing Holiday Party that 728's Entertainment Committee put on. If you didn't go, you definitely missed out on the event of the year! It was truly spectacular. I put a lot of photos up on our socials and will be making a video of the photos that were taken. Thank you to those that sent us photos/videos to use.

I was busy over the Break setting up the FREE Running/Walking Clinic with the Education Committee. If you are thinking of doing the Sun Run in April but not sure how to train, 728 has a FREE Running/Walking Clinic for you! Just join up on our team called Surrey Student Deserve Better (info on homepage of our website).

I spent a fair amount of time setting up our Union Calendar on our website with all our recognition dates for the next 3 years so check that out for dates/events coming up. These dates will be presented to HR and you have every right to share them at your worksite.

In solidarity, Marcey Campbell



Please go to the CUPE 728 webpage and provide us with your personal email address, to do union business through. You will receive bargaining updates to that email.

www.cupe728.ca

STUDENT SUPPORT

Hi Everyone,

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best in this new year. I hope the holiday break was restful and you are returning to work feeling recharged.

Please keep in mind that for some of our students this has been a difficult time and offer them the support they may need, this also applies to some of our coworkers.

We will be announcing the new areas for student support shop stewards soon so please watch for this. I will be adding IESWs at certain schools to my duties.

December was quite quiet as far as calls went and I didn't see any trends in the calls.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

IESW

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We hope you had a chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy quality time with your loved ones over the break.

First, we'd like to thank you for supporting us in the election to the CUPE BC Convention which is being held in Victoria this year at the end of April. We're looking forward to bringing some of our resolutions to the table and advocating for some positive changes.

Just a reminder to please keep filling out your incident reports and forwarding them to your respective shop steward as well as the union office office@cupe728.ca and to healthsafety@cupe728.ca.

Also, keep in mind that we are *NOT PERMITTED* to take phone calls or respond to emails/texts during our working hours. We also have 2nd and 3rd jobs outside of our school jobs so please give us time to respond, typically within 24 to 48 hours, before following up.

We are also in the process of reorganizing the caseloads for all student support staff (IESW, CYCW, ICSSW, etc.) between ourselves along with Nora Hooper to divide these responsibilities into 3 new zones. We appreciate your patience as we finalize the details and will inform you as soon as these changes are confirmed.

Please mark your calendars for our next Unit Meeting which will take place Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pre-register through zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ijFd1cm7S6u5ykqMeDQFDQ>

As always, please reach out to either of us if you have any questions, concerns or comments. We're here to help and support you!

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson and Cassie Deezar

CARETAKERS

Happy New Year,

Caretakers are the quiet backbone of our schools and workplaces. Every day, you create safe, clean, and welcoming environments where others can learn, work, and grow. Because of this vital role, workplace safety, clear communication, and mutual respect are not optional, they are essential.

Following procedures, using proper equipment, and reporting hazards or incidents protects not only you, but your coworkers and the community you serve. Speaking up about safety concerns is a sign of professionalism and care, not complaint. When we look out for each other, we prevent injuries and ensure everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Good workplace communication strengthens teamwork. Sharing information clearly, asking questions, and listening to one another helps reduce misunderstandings and builds trust. When challenges arise, respectful conversations allow problems to be solved before they become bigger issues.

Respect is the foundation that ties everything together. Every caretaker brings experience, dedication, and pride to their work. Treating one another with dignity, regardless of role, background, or opinion will create a workplace where people feel valued and supported.

Let's continue to build stronger, healthier workplaces for ourselves and for future generations.

Our next Lunch and Learn will be on January 15, 2026, online zoom from 8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Pre-register Lunch & Learn

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8RhPVakcSK2hbqU92noMUG>

Our next unit meeting will be on February 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and it will be a Hybrid meeting. You can attend in-person at the union office (207-6678 152 St., Surrey) or online zoom.

Pre-register unit meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/f5wt4m-BTdGQBbuX0ZPVxA>

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

COMMITTEE CORNER

Education Committee

The committee was busy over the Winter Break setting up the FREE Running/Walking Clinic. If you join the CUPE728 Vancouver Sun Run Team called 'Surrey Students Deserve Better', you will have access to our FREE Walking/Running Clinic. We will be starting Jan 14 and meeting twice a week throughout Surrey. Check the www.cupe728.ca home page and click on Running Clinic link for info on how to sign up and our schedule.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks, Laura Hagar-Gaube and Marcey Campbell

SIMPLY VOTING RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Members who were Nominated and Elected to be CUPE 728 Delegates to attend the 2026 CUPE BC Convention:

1. Theresa Pidcock
2. Cassie Deezar
3. Sheila Simpson
4. Edward Parsotam
5. Shannon Levinsky
6. Cory Hyslop
7. Debra Merrier
8. Manny Tunchez
9. Rabia Waraich
10. Raz Sangha

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.

Andrew B. – retirement Rebecca S. - sympathy

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.



2026 SUN RUN

CUPE728

TEAM NAME:
Surrey Students Deserve Better
Code: MSREDE

Brought to you by:
CUPE728
DPAC
STA

Silhouettes of runners against a city skyline background.

728's Education Committee will be putting on a FREE Running Training Clinic starting January 2026 for CUPE728 members. All you have to do is join our Sun Run Team commofficer@cupe728.ca for questions

VANCOUVER
**SUN
RUN**
APRIL 19, 2026

SUN APRIL 19, 2026

WWW.CUPE728.CA