

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 2
#209 – 6678 152 St., Surrey V3S 7J2
E-mail: office@cupe728.ca
Website: www.cupe728.ca
www.facebook.com/cupe728

Feb 2026
Telephone: 604-576-2873
Fax: 604-576-2871
Follow us on Twitter@cupe728
Follow us on Instagram at CUPE728

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 18th, 2026 - HYBRID

The Feb 18th General Membership meeting is at 6:00 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/join/eeLZ9JgaTn-mwNCjLiLg>

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 - 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 One (City Centre/Panorama/Sullivan)
Sheila Simpson – 604-818-2019
Student Support Two (Cloverdale/Clayton/Guilford)
Cassie Deezar – 778-808-4483
Student Support Three
(South Surrey/Whiterock/Newton/Fleetwood)
Nora Hooper – 778-808-5823

AGENDA

1. **Notice of Motion:** To change the CUPE 728 bylaw
 - *Benefit Fund - Section 24*
 - Email will be sent out with proposed changes and they will be posted on the CUPE 728 website www.cupe728.ca
2. Elect one (1) Executive-at-Large position
3. Elect four (4) members from the floor to attend the CUPE Spring School from May 31 – June 5, 2026 in Kamloops, BC.

STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT MEETING

March 5, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. online zoom.

Pre-register for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ijFd1cm7S6u5yqkMeDQFDO>

This meeting is for ALL student Support including IESWs

CARETAKER UNIT MEETING

February 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. online zoom

Pre-register for this meeting:

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



happy
Valentine's
day

PRESIDENT

January was a busy month. Thank you everyone for allowing me to attend winter school. I took the Workers' Compensation Board level one, which was incredibly informative. We received two binders full of resources—one 4 inches thick and the other 2 inches thick. I learned a great deal about the rules of WCB, including how the wage for WCB is calculated based on a percentage of the gross wages of the previous year and then divided by 12 months, which means you are entitled to 12 months, even if you're a 10-month employee. Also, I now understand the difference between compensable and non-compensable claims. Overall, it was a challenging class with lots of valuable resources. I would highly recommend it.

Also, while at winter school, David Eby came to answer some questions, though he did not answer ours. Daun Fredrickson, President of Delta Support workers and I asked about campaign proposals, which he did not answer. Additionally, in bargaining, it may have been stated that it's not our year, so I asked him what if we said it wasn't the NDP's year. No response to that one at all, other than to say thank you to our members for all their incredible work and reiterated he was aware of working conditions.

Lots of things are coming up in the next few months. To Start February is Black History Month. This month, we recognize and celebrate the contributions of those of African descent throughout history. The theme of 2026 is "30 years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations – From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries."

Spring break this year is March 16 -27, so our General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at 8:00 p.m. This will be the meeting where nominations will be happening for the election taking place on Saturday, April 25.

As well CUPE BC Convention will be taking place from April 29th – May 2nd in Victoria. Congratulations to those who will be attending this year. Looking forward to some more resolutions 😊.

Lastly, I will be back to provincial bargaining this month, and I hope we can make progress so we can move on to the local table.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

MAINTENANCE TRADES

Just a reminder for all to be aware of slippery surfaces now that Winter has come. Also be sure to do a check on your vehicles for damages before you leave a site. Damage will be found at some point and it's way easier to deal with it up front as opposed to later where the incident may be hard to remember. Winter can be sucky for folks, with that said try and be kind. As always be safe.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer



1st VICE PRESIDENT

The month of January has been busy, I had a few grievance meetings with the employer. We are hopeful to settle a few of our grievances in the coming weeks and we have upcoming meetings to go over more agreements with the employer.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to go to CLC Winter school, I took arbitration level two. It was a very informative course and I'm excited to be able to bring back my knowledge to the local as your grievance officer. I appreciate the opportunities you have given me to be able to represent you all fairly to the best of my ability.

I hope everyone has had a great January and please ensure that you take care of yourselves.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

CLERICAL

Hello all!

First of all, thank you all so much for electing me to go to the CLC Winter School!! All I can say is WOW!! This week was packed full of information to Debunk the Myths and Shift Power!! I've learned so much about the "economy " and what it all actually means. When they say we just aren't smart enough to understand it, well that's just a big old fat lie!! We shall continue to Kick A\$\$ For the Working Class!! I will be putting together some of my 44 pages of notes if you have any interest in hearing some of these myths, please let me know, I'm happy to share the information or just talk about it!!

Well, I have heard from some of you about the attendance letters going out. If you have concerns or want to vent or chat about them, please reach out. It has been a really rough flu that has been going around. I know I also was sick for about a month with it.

We will be having a unit meeting after 1701 Echo checks to see how everyone is doing and if there are changes. Stay tuned for the date. Thanks for doing all you do always!! Remember to take care of yourselves and each other!!

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

STUDENT SUPPORT TWO

Hello February!

I would like to remind all student support members we have a unit meeting March 5th at 4:00 p.m. on zoom. **Please pre-register through zoom link on page 1** and make sure the union office has your personal email.

Just a reminder that we do NOT use our district email unless for work purposes. The district monitors these emails, please email from your personal email. I work at my own site from 7:45am-2:15pm, I am unable to do union work on work time. I will do my

best to get back to you after work hours. I do my absolute best to return any phone calls and emails within 24 hours.

In solidarity, Cassie Deezar

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Financial Report:

The Trustees have agreed to audit the 2025 books of the UNION and SOCIETY the last week of February. All our records have been prepared and are ready for examination. Our union employee's, Move Up staff, payroll has been finalized and T4's have been remitted to CRA finalizing all our Employer responsibilities for 2025.

We were recently reminded by CUPE National that union funds are not to be paid direct to members, they are for the operation of the local as a whole. Last year, in a compassionate moment, we passed a motion that was unfortunately overturned as it was later deemed out of order. This was a great reminder to us all of the union's roles and responsibilities. As a result of this reminder, I will be putting forward a notice of motion to amend the Benefit Fund in our bylaws to reflect this knowledge so more errors don't happen in the future.

Dues Report:

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

December 31, 2025, SD36 dues report shows:

- 5475 unique employee numbers
- 32 newly initiated members
- 4655 total members that paid dues
- 1414 have a 37.5 hour work week.

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

As at our January JEIS meeting:

- 123 LTD active; less than 2 years on ltd
- 133 T & P; total & permanent disability
- 29 LTD Pending; expected to exceed 120 days
- 162 JEIS; within the 120 days

PEBT Stats:

Month of December:

- 92 members referred to the JEIS benefits program. Year to date; 103 more than last year
- 63 members returned to work after a 6+ days or longer absence
- 3 members JEIS suspended
- 15 members transitioned to LTD

Our benefits are available and explained in depth here: <https://www.pebt.ca/school-district/school-district-36/> and in our collective agreement (employee and employer) at cupe728.ca / resources.

In solidarity, Cory Hyslop

STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

Happy February!

I know January was a long month with no breaks, but we made it! Just a friendly reminder that although you may leave a text or phone message during the day, I cannot respond until before/after my work hours at my site.

I want to remind you all of a student support unit meeting we will be having on Zoom Thursday March 5th. Some of the topics we will be covering are accommodations, workboard, GRTW, District Bullying and Harassment, attendance letters, and much more. You won't want to miss it. **Please pre-register through zoom link on page 1**

When you're requesting an LOA make sure you put it in ASAP with documents (if you have them). This paperwork takes time and you need to be patient with HR as they process it.

I hope to see you all at the union meeting February 18th. I will be there in person, so come on out, we'll feed you pizza.

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all have had a good start to the New Year. We are happy to have begun the new zone coverage for all members of Student Support and I look forward to assisting you with your questions and concerns.

I've had quite a few calls regarding the Attendance Management program. Please remember that you are entitled to have a union rep with you at these meetings. I also want to remind you to fill out your incident reports and if you need to see a doctor due to an incident at work to open a WCB claim. The incident report itself does not start a WCB claim.

My contact information has changed slightly with my email now being studentsupportthree@cupe728.ca and my phone number remains 778 808 5823.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

"Kung Hei Fat Choi" (恭喜發財)



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

If your car breaks down, you go to a mechanic. If you feel sick, you go to the doctor. If your toilet clogs, you call a plumber. If you have questions about your job, you should be calling your Shop Steward.

On top of being your strongest advocate, your-go-between with HR/Managers/Admin they are also doing continuous training to ensure they have the most up-date information. All too often 728 members don't know where to turn so they ask questions on a non-union social media or their co-workers and quite often the answers are either incorrect or don't give all the information. If you follow the incorrect information, the employer can (and has) disciplined you or even fired you. PLEASE be sure you reach out to the correct person. All the contacts are on the website in multiple areas.

In solidarity, Marcey Campbell

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The month of January has gone by fast. I have been busy answering questions and concerns within all departments under the School and Community Support unit of our local.

I would like to remind members if you get asked to be a part of an investigation, please remember to keep things private and confidential. This is really important because the district could discipline you for not keeping this to yourself. The only people you are allowed to talk to while you are involved in the investigation is your shop steward, this is so things are kept private and fair for all the parties involved.

I would also like to say it would be great for more members to come out to union meetings to get more information and to become more involved within our local. There are a lot of amazing things that all members could be a part of and to bring back to their work site. So please attend meetings especially now in this bargaining year.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History acknowledgement is a time for all people in Canada to reflect and educate ourselves on the history of Black enslavement and the ongoing discrimination and criminalization of people of African descent, and to remember that anti-Black racism still exists.

Every year CUPE honours a Black ancestor, or someone who is making history today. This year we're honouring [Carol Wall](#).

Carol Wall was a fearless Black feminist and union leader. She dedicated her life to dismantling barriers, confronting inequality, and inspiring people to engage in courageous, transformative conversations.

PINK SHIRT DAY FEBRUARY 25, 2026



Participants wear pink shirts and attend or host informative events to raise awareness about bullying, particularly in schools. Pink Shirt Day was started in 2007 in Canada, where it is held on the last Wednesday of February each year.

CARETAKERS

Namaste,

I want you to know that I am here to support you and protect your rights on the job. Our 2022–2025 collective agreement is still intact as we are in the process of bargaining a new one. Our union continues to work hard to secure fair wages, strong benefits, safe working conditions, and respect in the workplace. The union is strongest when members stay informed and involved; therefore, I encourage members to attend unit meetings and participate in “Lunch and Learn” sessions when they are offered.

One of the most important things you can do is communicate. I can only help with workplace issues if I know they exist. If you're having problems with workload, scheduling, safety concerns, or treatment by supervision, please come to me as soon as possible. Many issues can be resolved quickly when addressed early, but waiting can limit what we're able to do.

I also want to stress the importance of reporting all injuries, no matter how small they may seem. Even a minor cut, slip, or strain should be reported right away. What feels minor today could become more serious later. Reporting injuries protects your health and ensures there is proper documentation if medical care or workers' compensation is needed. Your safety and rights matter. Don't hesitate to reach out—we're stronger when we look out for one another.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

MAINTENANCE NON-TRADES

Hello Non-trades,

I would like to remind everyone to be mindful of their absences. I mentioned this at the January GM meeting as well but management is starting to watch and meet with perceived abusers.

IMS, we are in the process of setting a date for a meeting with you all regarding an ongoing grievance. I will get the dates out to you when we have it set up.

In solidarity, Cale Hufsmith

COMMITTEE CORNER

Education Committee

We have been having a great time with the Walking/Running Clinic for the Vancouver Sun Run. While the weather has been cold in the mornings we have been very lucky it hasn't rained. Running in the rain is so much fun though. When was the last time you jumped in puddles as an adult? For those that are following along with us, we will now be progressing to a 2 min run with 30 second walk.

Wellness Committee

SD36, STA and CUPE728 were involved with a Wellness Committee. This committee provided interactive resources throughout the year (stretching videos, Wellness BINGO), collaborated in ensuring EAP was effective and provided Pro-D workshops. Unfortunately, SD36 had decided to postpone the last few meetings and has now determined that they would not be proceeding with this committee for the near future. When asked why this committee wasn't continuing and why this wasn't a group discussion, CUPE728 and the STA were not provided with reasons. While this is extremely disappointing that SD36 does not see the value in this committee, CUPE728 will continue to provide resources to its members on our website (under the Resources Tab) and on our socials.

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.

L. Lyons – 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.



Salaries Employment Health
Grievance Protection Law
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
Process Negotiation
Agreement Productive
Working Hours Terms Rules
Employer Union Wages Group
Overtime Safety Establish Cost

Healthcare Issues Representative
seeyoipdum
Regulate Contract
Limits Work Fair Salary

shutterstock.com · 428879245

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE UNION HAS YOUR PERSONAL EMAIL. IMPORTANT BARGAINING INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO THEM.

Sign up here: www.cupe728.ca

The 35th Annual Women's Memorial March honours and remembers women and gender-diverse people whose lives were lost in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Held each year on February 14th, the march brings courage and commitment to end the violence that Indigenous women, girls, two spirit and trans people in the community face on a daily basis.

Women's Memorial March in Vancouver 2026

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026

- 10:00a.m. A private gathering for families and those directly impacted (**no public attendance**)
- 12:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. Speeches and support commence as families make their way out of the private gathering and begin the march. The march includes several stops to commemorate where women were last seen or found, with moments of quiet reflection and traditional medicine practices
- 4:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. Community feast at Japanese Hall (487 Alexander St, Vancouver). Indigenous communities traditionally share meals after such events. Staying for the entire event is a meaningful way to show respect and solidarity

History of the Event

The February 14th Women's Memorial March Committee was founded in 1992 when a woman was found murdered on Powell Street. For 35 years, the Committee has been a leading local, national, and international voice on the issue of violence against Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirit people.

Despite the 231 Calls to Justice from the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), the reality on the ground in the Downtown Eastside has not changed.

This is a solemn event. Branding, organizational logos or promotional materials should not be brought.