

# CHRONICLE

## CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 4  
#209 – 6678 152 St., Surrey V3S 7J2  
E-mail: [office@cupe728.ca](mailto:office@cupe728.ca)  
Website: [www.cupe728.ca](http://www.cupe728.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/cupe728](http://www.facebook.com/cupe728)

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

### AGENDA

1. **Notice of Motion:** To change the CUPE 728 bylaw - *Benefit Fund - Section 24*
2. **Elect** six (6) Delegates to attend the CUPE BC Super Conference on Vancouver Island from June 9 – 11, 2026
3. **Elect** three or more (3+) members to the Entertainment Committee.
4. **Three (3) minute statements from Nominees**
  - a) **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2-year term/even year)**
    - Debra Merrier
    - Shannon Levinsky
    - Laura Hagar-Gaube
    - Manny Tunchez
  - b) **Two (2) Executive-at-Large (1-year term)**
    - Rabia Waraich
    - Melanie Courvoisier
    - Manny Tunchez
    - Chris Holfueur
    - Laura Hagar-Gaube
  - c) **Communications Officer (1-year term)**
    - Jayne Baggott
    - Laura Hagar-Gaube

### Executive Shop Stewards Positions

- d) **Student Support Two (2-year term/even year)**
  - Cassie Deezer
  - Laura Hagar-Gaube
- e) **School & Community Support (2-year term/even)**
  - Allan Henricks
  - Rasbir Sangha
  - Laura Hagar-Gaube

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

#### April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 - HYBRID

The April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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/meeting/register/wvLhAWp0SGe4iavsU-chzw>

**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/Guildford)  
Cassie Deezer – 778-808-4483

**Student Support Three**  
(South Surrey/White Rock/Newton/Fleetwood)  
Nora Hooper – 778-808-5823

## PRESIDENT

I hope everyone got to take some time during spring break to relax. The weather wasn't terrible, so hopefully some of that time was spent outside. The second week of spring break, the K-12 provincial team was back at the table. We prepped one day and bargained for 2. Though we are making progress, we still have much to negotiate. Stay tuned for more. We are hoping to hit the local table in May, but we don't usually do that until we are finished up provincially. We had 728 bargaining shirts made. They are free for members to come by and grab one, while quantities last.

Reminder that this is a big month with elections and CUPE BC. We have changed our meeting to a week later this month to accommodate those who will be attending the Surrey Vaisakhi celebrations. Therefore, our GM will be hybrid on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and elections will be Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, online only. Those who are running for positions will be limited to making a 3 min statement.

Please come out and hear what people have to say to help you make an informed decision on election day. Please come out and support those who are running to elect your representative. This will be a faster election, as nominations have already happened; we will be running fewer elections.

The last week of April, I will also be attending CUPE BC's Convention in Victoria. I am super excited to not only attend as a delegate but as Regional Vice President representing CUPE 728 and Vancouver Metro. Looking forward to passing some great resolutions and doing some important business that will benefit CUPE 728 and the province!

This year, we are also attending BC Fed in November. This is a big election year, do some research and put your name forward to help those leading and supporting us in the Union movement. The people who will be attending will be elected in the May general membership meeting. For those not putting your name forward, be there to vote on the people who will make good choices for you.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

## 1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

March was a busy month focused on supporting members, showing up in the community, and representing our local at the other labour tables.

I had the privilege to take part in an International Women's Day event on March 8<sup>th</sup>, in Ladner, joining other locals and CUPE Metro to recognize the contributions of women and gender-diverse people and to recommit to the ongoing work of equity, safety, and respect in our workplaces and communities. It was a lovely afternoon, spending time with some amazing leaders and the entertainment was awesome.

I also attended the New Westminster & District Labour Council (NWDLC) meeting for I am the CUPE executive representative on the council. We discussed topics that included public education, school board and municipal elections, affordability, health and safety, and community-based anti-violence and equity initiatives. These discussions matter for Surrey members, especially those working in schools or raising kids in the district.

Alongside this external work, I spent much of the month in the office working on grievances and assisting members. This included reviewing active grievances, helping members, and supporting members dealing with workplace stress, discipline, accommodation, and leave issues.

We are hoping to get to the bargaining table, across from our employer soon. Once the K-12 bargaining is done we will be able to do that.

April 28<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Mourning, which is an official day to recognize and honour workers killed, injured, or made ill by their work. I have committed to present to city council or a school board in the month of April through NWDLC.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

---

## SECRETARY-TREASURER

### Financial Report:

I will be away for a few weeks, so JEIS related correspondence has been forwarded to [2ndvp@cupe728.ca](mailto:2ndvp@cupe728.ca), Debra Merrier. As always, you can contact your shop steward for direction, all numbers and emails are available at [www.cupe728.ca](http://www.cupe728.ca).

We have had to postpone the Trustees Audit yet again; I am away plus we have a newly elected member that will get some training as we hope to proceed in June.



The Benefit fund is currently being reviewed by the sick-bank and benefit fund committee with recommendations to the constitution and bylaw committee, and finally to the executive board for its final suggestions to present to members. Stay tuned.

**Dues Report:**

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

*February 28, 2026, SD36 dues report shows:*

- 5484 unique employee numbers
- 41 newly initiated members
- 4623 total members that paid dues
- 1405 work 37.5-hour work week.

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

*As at our February JEIS meeting:*

- 132 LTD active; less than 2 years on ltd
- 134 T & P; total & permanent disability
- 26 LTD Pending; expected to exceed 120 days
- 171 JEIS; within the 120 days

**PEBT Stats:** Month of February:

- 89 members referred to the JEIS benefits program
- 68 members returned to work after a 6+ days or longer absence
- 5 members JEIS suspended
- 23 members transitioned too 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](http://cupe728.ca/resources).

In solidarity, Cory Hyslop

---

## MAINTENANCE TRADES

Rain gear is still an issue we are looking at folks. There is some dispute there and it's something we can address when local bargaining starts moving forward.

Regarding unpaid leaves, process is as follows. Submit paperwork and talk to supervisor, then put leave in ESS so that the proper email chain is established. This also then submits it to HR for approval which is the final step. Do not purchase flights or other leave requirements until after HR approval. Take pictures and document everything to cover yourself from future issues.

Be safe.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I hope everyone who was off for the spring break had some rest and time with the people we all care about. We only have 3 more months in this school year.

I also found out over the Spring Break that the IESW training that the Strong Start Facilitators took over the past year will stay on their files permanently, so they can move positions in the future.

All members please remember to come out to our local election which happen on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Registration information is on our website; I would like your support in this important time of bargaining which will be starting in the near future.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks

---

## STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

I hope you all had a restful and relaxing Spring Break and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. Although the weather wasn't always ideal, I hope you still had a chance to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of our province and surrounding areas.

Please note that our union meeting will be held a week later this month to align with our elections. The meeting dates are April 22 (6 pm) and April 25 (10 am). Kindly remember to pre-register for both dates.

I'm looking forward to attending the CUPE BC Conference at the end of this month. I've put my name forward to serve on the Credentials Committee, so it will be a busy and rewarding experience with some long days. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent our membership at this important conference.

For those of you wanting to do summer work, the sign up comes out in C07A which opens April 24 and closes May 3. You MUST sign up in order to get called out for summer work and those calls begin the 3rd week of June

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson



## STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

Hi Everyone! Welcome back from Spring Break! I know some of you didn't get the time off and we thank you for all your hard work!

It's been a quiet few weeks with some lovely family time, although I had meetings right up to the 13th and starting up right away again. Please leave a message if you call and I'm unable to answer, I am also at work so can't always answer the phone.

As always, I want you to stay safe and fill out your incident reports. If you can't get to work due to illness or any other reason, please make sure you enter an absence through ESS and follow any other protocols for your department.

I have noticed a trend lately of calling both the office and multiple shop stewards. Please be patient and give us a chance to reply and please, please don't trust social media advice. As your shop stewards we are trained in the collective agreement and how to help you. Sometimes, unfortunately, we can't give you the answer you want as it is outside of our contract and CA, but we do our best to help you.

Please come to the next GM to listen to the statements from people running to represent you on the 728 executive and come and vote at our elections on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to assisting you and answering your questions.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

---

## CLERICAL

Hello all,

I hope you all had some time over spring break to spend with loved ones and those you care about.

It's been a very busy time for the last three months. I've attended many meetings. I've been on the phone many, nights for hours at a time, with members that are struggling. It's a tough time worldwide right now and I think we are all feeling it. Please just remember to be kind to each other.

Just a reminder to everyone that we are all volunteers as shop stewards and other union positions. There are only 3 paid positions in the union and stewards are not paid. Many times, when I call people late into the night (because I'm a night person and I can only do union business after work time.) People often think we get paid for this job. We

don't. We put our name forward and we get elected for the position. Not a lot of people want the "job" because really, it's not an easy job. But people do it because they are passionate about helping others. They believe in the union. They believe in the movement. They want to make a difference and hope that they can make positive change. I won't stop trying.

With all that being said, elections are coming up on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We have our general membership meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please come! This is where you can hear speeches and make an informed decision. I really hope to see you there.

Clerical Appreciation Day is also April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thank you all for all you do!! I see you! I hear you! You are appreciated!!

I will be having a unit meeting; I really hope to see you there. Please remember to be kind to yourselves and each other. 🤗 ❤️ 🙌

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

---

## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

I want to start out by thanking the ENTIRE membership for all my wonderful years on the Executive. Over the past 13 years, I have had the pleasure of representing the membership as Communications Officer, 1st Vice President, President and have been in many Shop Steward roles not only at CUPE728 but have been fortunate enough to represent 728 all cross Canada.

I have decided to not continue as Communications Officer for this coming year as I am focusing on my Health & Safety program at BCIT. I have been proud of the growth that the Union has had and look forward to its future. If you are new to the Union or haven't been involved so far, I strongly suggest that you attend meetings and consider joining a committee. The Union is only as strong as its members, and YOU are the Union.

Don't forget to follow us on FB/X/IG and our website for updated bargaining information and all the latest Union news. Thank You again and I look forward to returning once my studies are over.

In solidarity, Marcey Campbell



## CARETAKERS

Welcome back my fellow caretakers who were able to take some well-earned time off over the break. We hope it brought you rest and time to recharge. To those who worked through the break thank you for the continued dedication and the essential role you play in keeping our school safe clean and operational. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

As a return to our routines, please continue to prioritize health and safety in every task. Take the time to use proper procedures, wear appropriate protective equipment, and look out for one another. Just as important, ensure that all incidents and injuries, no matter how minor, are reported and documented. These reports are crucial in helping identify hazards, preventing future injuries, and ensuring everyone goes home safe.

We also recognize that many are carrying stress, given the challenges happening in the world around us. Let's be mindful of how we communicate with one another. A little patience, understanding and kindness will go a long way, maintaining a respectful and supportive workplace.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

---

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Human Rights and Equity

During the holy month of Ramadan Muslims locally and around the world fast daily from sunrise to sunset, focusing on faith, self discipline and reflection. The month concludes with Eid al-Fitr the "festival of breaking the fast".

The celebration begins with the sighting of the new crescent moon and may last up to three days. It starts with special morning prayers, followed by gatherings with the family and friends. Muslims greet each other with Eid Mubarak! and often wear new or traditional clothing. Food is important part of Eid, especially sweets, earning it the nickname 'meeti eid' in South Asia. Children commonly receive gifts or money known as "Eidi".

A key part of Eid is giving the Zakat al fitr, a required charitable donation made before prayers to support those in need. Eid al fitr marks the completion of Ramadan and celebrates values of gratitude, generosity, and community.

EID MUBARAK!

In solidarity, Rabia Waraich

## APRIL 28TH - DAY OF MOURNING

**We stand together with the world's workers to remember:**

- ❖ All those suffering workplace illnesses, injuries or killed on the job
- ❖ Children left parentless, and families facing hardship
- ❖ Young workers killed or injured at a much higher rate
- ❖ Women workers whose hazards are often unrecognized/ignored
- ❖ The working wounded denied fair compensation

**Because union struggles gain laws and protections, we:**

- ❖ Vow that "an injury to one is an injury to all"
- ❖ Demand the enforcement of health and safety laws
- ❖ Denounce those who place profits before workers' health
- ❖ Proclaim our right to safe workplaces and respect on the job



**We mourn the dead and fight for the living.**

*We hope you will join CUPE members and workers around the world in renewing our shared commitment to preventing workplace injuries and deaths and ensuring the health and safety of all workers.*

## 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.

Sarah T. – sympathy      Jagminder V. – get well  
Karolee H. – get well      Michelle R. – 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.*



# ELECTION

Register in advance for this meeting: **Elections** April 25, 2025 - [MAIN MEETING LINK](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Rdb6cvHYTvCIFqarZdAXXg>

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

*Please also register for your department sub-meeting. You will be directed to your sub-meeting from the Main meeting.*

You should be registered for the MAIN meeting and ONE (1) sub-meeting.

## **ORDER OF ELECTIONS ARE BELOW:**

1. Elections for the following will be done through the main meeting zoom link:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2-year term/even year)
2. **GO TO DEPARTMENT LINK BELOW FOR SHOP STEWARD ELECTIONS**
  - Student Support Two (2-year term/even year) (Includes all student support IESWs, CYCWs etc.)
  - School & Community Support (2-year term/even year)
3. **RETURN TO MAIN LINK FOR BELOW ELECTIONS**
  - Executive-at-Large One & Two (1-year term)
  - Communications Officer (1-year term)

SUB MEETING – SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT ONLY – Register in advance for this Election Sub-meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NqiKshFkT9qu\\_ilglSZfyg](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NqiKshFkT9qu_ilglSZfyg)

SUB MEETING – STUDENT SUPPORT TWO ONLY – Register in advance for this Election Sub-Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mdGjVWx5RkGJqFF6-DMv3w>

## GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE NOMINEES

