

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 5
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May 2026
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 20th, 2026 - HYBRID

The May 20th 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/join/zoom/register/2p7EHKiTT4amcrEcbVL9VQ>

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

728 HOLDING SOCIETY AGENDA (7:30 P.M.)

There are a total of nine (9) 728 Holding Society Directors: The President of CUPE 728, four (4) elected Executives and four (4) elected Members from the floor.

- President – Tammy Murphy
Four (4) elected Executives from the May 7, 2026 Executive meeting as 728 Holding Society Directors are:
 1. Nominate and elect four (4) Members from the floor as Directors to the 728 Holding Society.
 2. Nominate and Elect the Chair for the 728 Holding Society Committee.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 8:00 P.M.

1. **Nominate and Elect** one (1) Clerical shop steward
2. **Nominate and Elect** one (1) Sergeant-at-Arms
3. **Notice of Motion:** To remove union sick bank out of the CUPE 728 bylaws and turn it into a policy.
4. **Elect** 14 to attend the BC FED Convention from November 23 – 27, 2026 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

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 – VACANT.....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 Deezar – 778-808-4483

Student Support Three

(South Surrey/White Rock/Newton/Fleetwood)

Nora Hooper – 778-808-5823

CUPE 728 SCHOLARSHIPS Application for the CUPE 728, Thomas G. Ellis Memorial, Indigenous and random draw scholarships is on page 6 of this chronicle. Applications are due no later than **Sept 25, 2026.**



CUPE BC – Aubrey Burton/Reg Ford Memorial
SCHOLARSHIP.

Please visit their website for more details

<https://www.cupe.bc.ca/>

PRESIDENT

After over a year at the table, provincial bargaining is finally complete. While we did not achieve everything we set out to do, we did make some meaningful gains for our members.

The Provincial Framework Agreement has been shared widely but if you have questions, please reach out to me. We are set to hit the local table in May with a few more dates in June. Once we complete local bargaining and have ratified you will be back paid your 3% raise.

With elections now complete, I would like to congratulate Karen Nicoletti, Edward Parsotam, Cale Hufsmith, Cassie Deezar, Allan Henricks and Rabia Waraich on their re-election and Jayne Baggott, Shannon Levinsky being newly elected. I would also like to share a heartfelt thank you on the faith that you have shown me and to thank you all for your support in me to allow me to represent you for another 2-years.

Hopefully most of you were able to attend the May Pro D Day and found it to be informative. Thank you (CUPE 728 members and SD36 HR) and to all who worked so hard on bringing this all together. This day would not be possible without all your support.

CUPE BC took place the last week of April. Thank you to all who were able to attend to represent our local. It was a great event with 46 resolutions passed.

As the school year is coming to an end remember if you are a 728 member that scholarship applications are open to apply for through 728 and CUPE BC. All 10-month employees also watch for the summer work sign up. Please do not sign up unless you are interested in working. This creates huge delays and does not look good.

This month we will also be holding elections for delegates to attend the BC Federation of Labour Convention, which will take place in Vancouver. I encourage members to come out and support those who are putting their names forward.

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy



1st VICE PRESIDENT

Over the last month, my efforts have centred on representing members, resolving grievances, supporting labour relations, and fulfilling Executive duties.

A major portion of my time was dedicated to grievance work. There were Steps 2 and 3 meetings, addressing issues like lost wages, disputes over postings and qualifications, as well as longstanding pay and past practice matters. We filed a few new grievances and only have one to present. Currently 24 grievances on the books, with a few in the settlement process.

One of the things we did was settle the DEC-based grievances, which resulted in a new Memorandum of Understanding with the District. This MOU details how positions such as Safe Schools Liaison, EVLI, and Indigenous Child and Youth Care Workers will be managed in the future. Please contact me if you have any questions. Convention was a great experience as always; I served on the resolution committee, ensuring all resolutions were brought forward for delegate voting.

Recently, many members have exercised their right to refuse unsafe work. Please reach out to your shop stewards for support. Reminder to take care of yourselves, offload the feelings with a trusted friend, or do something that fills your bucket.

Bargaining will begin soon. Special thanks to Tammy Murphy and the K-12 Bargaining Committee for their dedication and advocacy on behalf of members throughout BC.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

MAINTENANCE TRADES

A big thanks to the K-12 bargaining group for all of the effort and time put in to get us to the local bargaining stage of negotiations. I am excited to get to the table with the employer and our team, to try to make this place better for all. I will do my best to explain how things are going within the parameters of what can be said but it will be fairly hush hush until it's time to vote one or another.

Please be patient, we all want the raises and the back pay. Let's hope for a smooth round of bargaining for a better future.

In solidarity, Blair Hofer

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I would like to thank all the members who came to our annual election meeting. I would like to congratulate all the executive who were elected into positions. I would also like to say a big thanks to the people who put their names forward to be elected, it shows we have a lot of people who want to support our growing membership making sure everyone's voices and concerns are heard.

These next couple of months of the school year are very worrisome for a lot of our members due to the district's budget and how it affects everyone. I want us all to be respectful to each other and be mindful that everyone takes their situation differently. Please be kind to each other.

We are starting local bargaining in the next few weeks so please make sure the union has your personal email not your district email because the district can read it due to the fact that they own that email server. We will be sending out bargaining updates to keep you informed.

I look forward to the next two years making sure the members of this department are heard and represented properly.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks

STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

April has been a very busy month with many calls, emails, texts and meetings. Many of your concerns have to do with member-to-member conflicts. Remember you do not know what is going on in someone's life and please try to be kind. I suggest talking with your admin as a first step to resolving these concerns. It is their job to ensure you have a safe workplace. For our Spareboard members I can't stress enough that you need to take the time to read the safety plan prior to working with a student, and to remember that you are expected to perform all normal duties with the student.

Please keep filling out incident reports for all incidents and near misses. If you are being discouraged from doing so, please let your shop steward know. It is your right to fill these out.

When you reach out to your shop steward, please use your personal email and send your email to our union email addresses. We cannot do union business on employer mail, and it may not be checked daily. Also, please remember we volunteer to do this and are also working so we can't always respond immediately. If it is an emergency, please call the CUPE 728 office at 604-576-2873.

I would also like to welcome our new 728 Executive members and congratulate our returning members. Thank

you to the members who took the time to come out and vote in our local elections!

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

CLERICAL/SECOND VICE

Hello all,

I would like to thank everyone for coming out April 25th to the elections meeting and putting your trust in me. I appreciate you all and thank you for your support!! I would like to congratulate the new executive on their elections and also celebrate those that were acclaimed!! It's also a sad time too to see some long-time executive members not returning. I want to thank them for their years of service and dedication to the local and the membership. My heart is full yet sad if that makes sense. Hugs to all.

Thank you also for voting for me to attend CUPE BC Convention! Stay tuned for a report next month.

Remember to be kind to yourselves and each other!

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

STUDENT SUPPORT TWO

Hello May 🌸

First, I'd like to thank our student support members for their support at this past election. I look forward to continuing to work hard for our members, please remember I work at my own site from 7:45a.m. - 2:34 p.m. I am unable to answer the union phone while at work, if it's an emergency or right to refuse unsafe work please call the union office at 604-576-2873.

Please continue to fill out your incident reports and send them into the office, we don't know what's happening unless it's reported.

In solidarity, Cassie Deezar



If you are **new CUPE member**, in order to be a member in good standing and have the rights to vote, you must have been inducted into the union.

If you have not taken the oath, you must attend a general membership meeting held the third Wednesday of every month. Next meeting is May 20, 2026.

Please provide a personal email to the union to receive important information and updates.

CARETAKERS

Namaste, Caretakers,

I would like to take this time to reflect on the past term serving you. It has been my utmost pleasure to support your needs both when you requested assistance and when support was needed but not yet recognized.

I understand that my methods of communication may sometimes be difficult to follow. However, they are always intended to come full circle, bringing clarity to the situation at hand and highlighting areas where support is needed.

Rules, terms, and policies are in place for us as workers to follow and respect, though they are not always clearly visible or readily accessible.

I thank you for your continued trust in me during my upcoming two-year term of office, I have an obligation to ensure that all caretakers will have access to district computers during work hours. This will allow you to review policies, procedures, and handbooks whenever guidance or clarification is needed. I will also work to ensure that communication boards in staff rooms are maintained, regularly updated, and continue to meet your everyday needs as we grow stronger together.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend the CUPE BC Convention in Victoria. I had the opportunity to serve on the Credentials Committee, where I met many delegates from a wide range of sectors across our province. It was an incredible and rewarding five days.

I also want to remind everyone to take your breaks, these are important and well-deserved. That said, please ensure you are only taking the time you are entitled to. I've heard from several members who have concerns about colleagues not returning from breaks on time. A reminder that your break begins when you "hand over" your student, not when you arrive at your car or the staff room. Please be respectful and considerate of your fellow colleagues.

Lastly, thank you all for the hard work you continue to do. We are nearing the end of another school year, keep up the great work supporting our most vulnerable learners.

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson



RIGHT TO REFUSE

1. You have the **Right to Know** about hazards in the Workplace.
2. You have the **Right to Participate**, in Occupational Health and Safety activities through the Joint Health and Safety Committee.
3. You have the **Right to Refuse**, unsafe work.
4. You have the **Right to no Retaliation, No Disciplinary Action** because of raising Occupation Health and Safety concerns.

Now that we have reviewed your Rights, let's take a minute to discuss their application. First off, you or a fellow member is placed in a position that places either them or yourself to potential risk of injury.

1. **Step one** notify your supervisor of the unsafe condition and your refusal to work.
2. **Step two** your supervisor must investigate and remedy the issue at hand without delay and inform you of the results.
3. **Step three** if the remedy/solution presented to you is unsatisfactory, you can still refuse to work. The supervisor/employer must now conduct an investigation with yourself, your Health and Safety Representative and or your Union Representative.
4. **Step four** if the investigation fails to reach resolution, either you or your supervisor must inform WorkSafe BC for further resolution.

Additionally, should you Refuse an Unsafe assignment, your supervisor, should they decide to assign another member to that assignment must inform that member of your refusal and why you refused, prior to them accepting the assignment!

Your confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Feel supported and connected with a confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and innovative wellbeing resource. Life can be complicated. Get help with all life's questions, issues and concerns. Any time, 24/7, 365 days a year. Support with mental health, financial, physical and emotional wellbeing.

1. Download the TELUS Health One app or visit one.telushealth.com
2. Enter: Your work email address
3. Click "Next" and you'll be redirected to single sign on for your organization

Your confidential *Employee Assistance Program (EAP)*, and resources to support your mental, physical, social. And financial wellbeing

Call: 1-888-625-1136 **Online:** onetelushealth.com

CUPE 728 ELECTION RESULTS

CUPE 728 held our annual elections on April 25, 2026.

Congratulations to the below Electees!

Acclaimed positions

President – Tammy Murphy

Recording Secretary – Karen Nicoletti

Caretaker Shop Steward – Edward Parsotam

Non-Trades Shop Steward – Cale Hufsmith

Communications Officer - Jayne Baggott

Elected Positions:

2nd Vice President (2-year term/even)

Shannon Levinsky

Executive-at-Large One (1-year term)

Rabia Waraich

Executive-at-Large Two (1-year term)

Melanie Courvoisier

School & Community Support (2-year term/even)

Allan Henricks

Student Support Two (2-year term/even)

Cassie Deezar

RED DRESS EVENT – May 5, 2026

First of all, I would like to thank the 728 Executive, members and all Clayton Heights Staff, students, Elder Coleen, North stars Drummers, METRO, and NWDLC. I would also thank my family and friends who were also there.

Red Dress Day (MMIWG) Raising Awareness, Education and honoring the mom, sisters, daughters, Auntie women and girls who have lost loved ones.

Each Dress carries a story, a Family and a community.

To start the Principal did the Acknowledgement of the Territories, opened with Elder Coleen, CUPE 728 President and 1st Vice President shared some words, 4 Indigenous students shared what the Red Dress Day (MMIWG) is, the North Stars Drummer guided the 150 students and people attending to walk in the community for the Red Dress (MMIWG). We closed with the Women Warrior Song and shared BANNOCK.

Chi Meegwetch, Debra Merrier

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

IESW Posting Registration: Open from Mon June 1 to Tues June 23

CYCW Posting: Open from Friday June 19 to Monday June 22 (online – ESS)

All choices for IESW posting meeting must arrive no later than **Thursday June 25 @ 1:30pm** for those who are on an approved leave and cannot attend meeting – or – those who are qualified but are not currently in an IESW role. Send email to HRES-office@surreyschools.ca

IESW Posting Meeting: June 26 – 8:00AM – Bell Performing Arts Centre

Doors open @ 7:30am – Begins at 8:00am – **MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND**

- **IESW Postings** go on Staff Portal **for viewing only:** Monday June 22
- **IESW Amendments** go on Staff Portal **for viewing only:** Wednesday June 24
- **Advise to arrive early and carpool as there is not enough parking**

IESW Placement Registration: Open from Fri June 26 to Fri July 31 @ 11:59pm

IESW Bumping: August 5 – 8:30am – DEC/2020

Positions will go on Staff Portal for viewing only on Friday Jul 31

CYCW Placement: August 5 – 9:30am – DEC2020

Positions will go on Staff Portal for viewing only on Friday Jul 31

IESW Placement: Tuesday August 11 at Bell Centre

- Doors open @ 7:30am – Begins at 8:00am – **MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND**
- Positions on the Staff Portal for **viewing only** on Friday August 7
- **Advise to arrive early and carpool as there is not enough parking**

STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT MEETING

May 28, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. online zoom.

Pre-register for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84304564482?pwd=DmXodVIE0bF98lvFsX1DI9m9PTF7bx.1>

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 2026.

*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 25, 2026.

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

