

# CHRONICLE

## CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 6  
#209 – 6678 152 St., Surrey V3S 7J2  
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June 2026  
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### AGENDA

#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

#### **June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - HYBRID**

The June 17<sup>th</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/dGM0ruDoS1KdKm19Ismf8g>**

***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 – Mike Addy.....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 BC – Aubrey Burton/Reg Ford Memorial  
**SCHOLARSHIP.** <https://www.cupe.bc.ca/>

#### **1. Elect Standing Committees:**

- Three (3) *District Health & Safety*
- Five (5) *Health & Safety Sub-Committee*
- Three (3) – eight (8) *Constitution and By-Laws (1 Indigenous and 1 Racialized)*
- Three (3) – eight (8) *Political Action*
- Three (3) – five (5) one (1) of whom shall be retired & appointed by the committee  
*Pension Committee*
- Three (3) *School Board Trustee Action*
- Three (3) *Education Committee*
- Three or more (3+) *Women’s Committee*
- Three or more (3+) *Human Rights & Equity*
- Three or more (3+) *Anti-Contracting Out*
- Three or more (3+) *Young Workers*

Please go to our website: [www.cupe728.ca](http://www.cupe728.ca) and look under Constitution & Bylaws for descriptions of committees.

1. Elect three (3) members and three (3) Alternates to the DFC Health & Safety committee.
2. Nominate and elect two (2) Members from the floor as Directors to the 728 Holding Society.
3. **Notice of Motion:** \$40,000 for an Adult Holiday Party.
4. **Notice of Motion:** \$15,000 for a Children’s Holiday Party
5. **Notice of Motion:** \$4,000 for a Welcome back BBQ

#### **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.

Cia P. – retirement      Diane 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.

## PRESIDENT

Well, here it is, June already, another school year down. While much of our district CUPE employees are off, please remember that there are many 12-month employees working hard to fix, maintain and make our schools safe during these months. Thank you all who are working hard during this time in the heat and undesirable conditions. Those who get some time off please enjoy it!

For many of the 10-month employees that don't have regular postings please watch closely for dates that may affect your department. Specifically, CYCWs and IESWs. Posting, bumping and placement meeting dates are listed so, please go to what is applicable to you. If you are unsure, please contact your shop steward.

IESW please remember that due to the amount of folks in your department registration is required for all events: Posting, bumping and placement. There should be 40 more positions at the posting meeting for IESW. The district will be reinstating 40 of the 50 positions they cut last year while our numbers of diverse students continued to increase.

Remember that in the June GM we will be electing all standing committees. Please refer to the list for all the committees available. This is a great place to get started if you are thinking of getting involved! We also need to fill the last 2 director positions for the 728 Holding Society.

I would like to welcome our new clerical shop steward Mike Addy to the executive and thank our executive for all their hard work this year. This can be a thankless job sometimes and I would like to give a big shout out to them all for the extra hours and time they devote to this membership. Reminder that many of the executive are 10-month employees so they are on their vacation time. Please be patient when waiting for a response if it is emergent and you have not received an answer contact the Union office.

### TO ALL 728 MEMBERS HAVE A FANTASTIC SUMMER!!



In solidarity, Tammy Murphy

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

Lately, I have noticed a growing number of workplace issues, where there is conflict amongst workers. When speaking to people we hear that many of you are feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, and burnt out. Burnout is not simply having a stressful day or feeling tired after a busy week, it is a serious work-related condition caused by ongoing stress that has not been properly managed. It can leave people feeling emotionally drained, disconnected from their work, and less confident in their ability to do their job well.

Burnout can show up in many ways. You may feel constantly tired, emotionally exhausted, or cynical about work. Over time, it can affect your attendance, your mental health, and your physical well-being. People experiencing burnout may struggle with depression, trouble sleeping, emotional distress, headaches, muscle and joint pain, and difficulty concentrating. Burnout can also affect memory, focus, and decision-making, making it harder to manage the demands of daily work.

Burnout can also strain relationships with our co-workers and create a workplace atmosphere that adds even more stress. We know you are all dealing with heavy workloads, dysregulated students, limited time to complete important tasks, and there is not enough staff to support the work. These are serious concerns, and while they may not be solved overnight, your union representatives continue to raise these issues and push for the supports, resources, and staffing our members need.

While we continue that work, what you can do is protect your own well-being. Take care of your physical and mental health. Set boundaries and disconnect from work whenever possible. We work to live, not the other way around. Leave work at work, and make time for the people, activities, and routines that bring you peace and joy.

Supportive relationships matter as well. Be kind to one another, maintain healthy connections with co-workers, and avoid getting pulled into negativity or gossip. A healthy, supportive, and inclusive workplace is built through communication, compassion, and respect. In difficult moments, take time to pause, regulate, and respond thoughtfully. Looking after yourself and each other is not a luxury—it is necessary. Speaking up about workplace concerns, and supporting one another, we can help create healthier schools for everyone.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock



## **SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT:**

- 2026 budget, we are right where we projected, we're on track to balance
- The 2025 financial audit has been bumped to September to accommodate new Trustee training
- I am grateful to have been elected to attend the CUPEBC convention in Victoria, it is a wonderful experience to be part of change on the ground floor. I don't have the opportunity to travel often so it was much appreciated to be able to be an active participant in CUPEBC's and our growth
- The Sick Bank forms are being reviewed to see if we can make it easier for members that need STD
- A reminder for committees to start planning now! If there is an event you want to host, have your meeting, devise a plan and get your motion to the office so it can go a GM for a vote allowing significant time to plan. Last minute motions can cause chaos so please get prepared
- The summertime is a time for projects, catch up, clean up as well as the beginning of preparations for next years budgets
- In April 2026 we had 4797 members pay dues and 40 newly initiated members
- In May it was reported that 24 members were pending LTD, 153 on active LTD and 130 on T&P
- In April 89 members were referred to JEIS, 68 returned prior to LTD and 23 transitioned to LTD
- In depth details of our benefit plan can be found here: <https://www.pebt.ca/school-district/school-district-36/>

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## **MAINTENANCE NON-TRADES**

Hi, Non-trades!

If you haven't already, please file your personal emails with CUPE728 if you wish to receive updates about bargaining. We have several bargaining dates this month so updates will start coming. Please note that CUPE728 will not communicate with you through your district email.

12-month members, it's going to be another hot summer. Please monitor yourself and your coworkers for signs of heat exhaustion especially if you are working outdoors. Drink lots of water and take micro breaks to cool off when necessary.

Everyone have a safe and great summer. We will see you in September!

In solidarity, Cale Hufsmith

## **STUDENT SUPPORT ONE**

We're in the homestretch — just a few more weeks to go! Thank you to everyone who joined our Student Support Unit meeting online last month. We covered many important dates and updates for our department. Please remember that all upcoming dates and events can be viewed on our website.

I also want to remind everyone about the importance of respect in the workplace. I have recently been made aware of several concerns involving staff feeling bullied, harassed, or humiliated by colleagues. There is no hierarchy within our department, and nobody is better than anyone else. We all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Please remember that inappropriate behaviour toward coworkers can result in a bullying and harassment complaint being filed against you.

This leads me to another important reminder: if you need to file a DBH report, please make sure it is done correctly. I've had a couple of members believe they had submitted a DBH, only to later realize they had completed an incident report instead. If you are unsure how/where to access the information, please reach out to your shop steward for guidance.

I hope you all enjoy these final few weeks at your sites. This time of year, brings many fun field trips, celebrations, and events throughout the district.

I look forward to seeing you at our final union meeting of the school year on June 17 at 6:00 PM.

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

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## **STUDENT SUPPORT TWO**

**Hello June,** ☀️ 😎

I'd like to thank the membership for sending me to Kamloops for CUPE spring school. Thank you to all the student support members who came to May 28th, unit meeting. To all our ten-month employees, please enjoy your summer break. To all our twelve-month employees thank you for your hard work.

In solidarity, Cassie Deezar



*Here's to Good Times and Tan Lines!*

*Enjoy the summer everyone!*

## CARETAKERS

Namaste Caretakers,

We are in the last stretch of what seems like a quick school year. As the time comes closer to school closure for the summer, we must prepare ourselves for the work that lies ahead. We are going to be going into a situation where our direction will be to complete floor refinishing as soon as we can in the larger group settings before or after members go off onto vacations. Prior to that the expectation will be that we will fall short on staff due to usage of banked overtime and vacation overages. Prepare your bodies for light furniture movement, and floor scrubbing in teams unless otherwise directed.

Work Hard, Work together, Check and get Directions if not clear, ask for help when needed and Be Safe! Check emails and memos on company time! Most important, Take ALL breaks! And stay hydrated.

Have an enjoyable summer!

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

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## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

June is finally here. Things have been so busy within the School and Community Support Department. I have been helping with the fallout with the School District's budget for next year. We have lost our before school and seamless day programs at 2 schools which affects some positions within the Strong Start department. We also lost some positions at the Welcome Centre due to Federal funding cuts but luckily it looks like the district has found jobs for all those affected.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the union and getting more informed on what is going on, June is a great time to do that. We have our committee elections coming up at the June general meeting. This is a great time to meet people, share ideas, and to get involved with the union.

It is the end of the school year, and we are all feeling drained, but we still have to remember to be kind and respect everyone we work with. Please be mindful that there is lots going on at work right now and please take time for yourselves.

Please enjoy the Summer and also take the time to thank the other Staff who work through the summer to make sure we all come back to clean and safe schools.

In solidarity, Allan Henrick

## STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

Hi Everyone,

May has been a very busy month with many meetings, calls, emails and texts. I try to respond as quickly as possible but please remember we are also working.

As we get to the end of the year I am noticing many issues among staff. Please be kind to your co workers and remember we are all tired. The end of the year can be a hard time also for the students we work with and make our jobs even harder.

Posting time is also coming up in various departments. I hope you were able to attend the unit meeting where we reviewed the process. If not, I am happy to answer your questions. Please register for the posting meeting at the end of June if you are an IESW. ***You will not be able to attend if you do not register.***

I would also like to take this time to Thank you all for voting in support of my attending the BC Federation of Labour Convention next November.

I hope you all have a wonderful month and look forward to assisting you in any way possible.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

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## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Hi all!!!

Well, we made it! Another one for the books! This month was busy as I was still doing the Clerical Shop Steward role until recently when Mike Addy was elected!! Congratulations Mike!!!

I have recently been looking at the Fact Sheets that the school district puts out for all to see. I'm doing a deep dive into this information and comparing what we are being told to what is written in black and white and the huge discrepancies. Stay tuned.

I stood up at the board meeting this month to ask a question relative to their "report on the budget meeting". I asked the board "How can you justify a 24-26% wage increase for the TOP when CUPE Support Staff and Teachers are fighting to get 3%? They need to respond to my question, so I look forward to hearing what they have to say.

Thank you to our President Tammy Murphy for all the interviews on various news outlets over the past few months, regarding this outrageous increase in the wages at

the top. People are mad and they have every right to be mad, when the superintendent of Surrey Schools makes more than the Prime Minister of Canada!!

Remember to save the date: October 17<sup>th</sup> is our Municipal elections, we all choose who we elect on the board!!

Thank you as always for all the work you do!! We appreciate you, the students appreciate you, the parents appreciate you and the community appreciates you!!

Have a great summer!!

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

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## EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE ONE

Hello everyone,

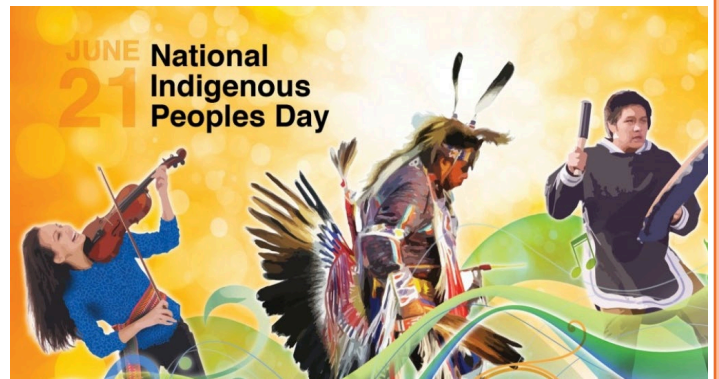
I would like to extend warm wishes of Eid Mubarak to all members and families who celebrated. Eid al-Adha is a time of reflection, compassion, gratitude, and community. It reminds us of the importance of generosity, supporting those in need, and coming together with family, friends, and community. I hope the special occasion brought peace, happiness, and blessings to everyone celebrating.

I would like to sincerely thank the members who voted for me to attend the Mental Health First Aid training in Kamloops. I am excited to bring back valuable knowledge and resources to help support our local and our members.

Please remember that your executive works tirelessly to support and advocate for members every day. Like all of you, many of us are balancing work, families, responsibilities, and life outside of the workplace. A little kindness, patience, and understanding can go a long way.

Thank you for your continued solidarity, support, and commitment to one another.

In solidarity, Rabia Waraich



In June we commemorate both National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day. National Indigenous Peoples Day was founded in 1997 and is celebrated on June 21, the summer solstice and Indigenous History Month was first recognized in 2009.

This month is a great opportunity to learn and reflect on Indigenous History in Canada, Truth and Reconciliation and the ongoing issues faced by the Indigenous Peoples of Canada (Turtle Island). The Indigenous peoples of Canada include First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples.

Some of the ways you can learn and take part in this month are through reading and acting on the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, learning and including a territory acknowledge in your practices, attend an event in your area celebrating Indigenous culture and history, take a course (University of Alberta offers an excellent, free online course, Indigenous Canada through Coursera), listen to an Indigenous podcast, music or watch programming or documentaries about Indigenous culture and issues (APTN is a good source), learn about cultural safety through YouTube and online courses, and supporting your local Indigenous run businesses.

While you embrace learning and celebrating Indigenous culture throughout June, please also remember the ongoing issues facing these cultures such as systemic racism, lack of clean water on reservations, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls and two spirit peoples, high numbers of youth in care, poverty, and the fight to live on and govern their homelands.

## BARGAINING

The next Bargaining dates with the employer are scheduled for June 16 & 17. Make sure we have your personal email as bargaining updates will be emailed out to the members **PERSONAL EMAIL** and posted on the CUPE 728 website [www.cupe728.ca](http://www.cupe728.ca)

# 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](mailto:office@cupe728.ca)

**NAME OF APPLICANT**

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN**

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**ADDRESS**

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**TELEPHONE NUMBER**

---

**BIRTHDATE**

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**SCHOOL ATTENDED**

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**UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE APPLICANT PLANS TO ATTEND**

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**DEGREE/CERTIFICATE SOUGHT**

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