

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 7

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September 2026

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 16th, 2026 - HYBRID

The September 16th 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/j/82187386858?pwd=FjcQYcRAP26G4V8L0M1zTfW0bdCJu8.1>

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

AGENDA

1. Elect Standing Committees:
 - One (1) Education committee member
 - One (1) Young Workers Committee member

Please go to our website: www.cupe728.ca and look under Constitution & Bylaws for descriptions of committees.

2. Elect one (1) Maintenance Trades member as an alternate to the DFC Health & Safety committee.
3. Elect up to fourteen (14) members to the CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council
4. Elect up to eleven (11) members to the New West & District Labour Council.
5. Elect four (4) members to CUPE BC Fall Weeklong school in Nanaimo from November 15 – 20, 2026.
6. **Notice of Motion:** Donation to the Surrey Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums.
7. **Notice of Motion: Bylaw Change** All Wednesday General meetings that alternate between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. take place at 6:00 p.m.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY SEPTEMBER 30

PRESIDENT

WELCOME BACK to all our 10-month employees and thank you for all the hard work that our 12-month folks did to get the schools up and running for school! Hoping you all got the opportunity to enjoy some time off and fun during the summer.

As you all may know the Welcome Back BBQ is on Saturday, September 19th at Chimney Hill Elementary from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Join us for some fun and food.

Now that September has come around, we are back to bargaining. We have 5 dates planned for September and are hoping to make some progress at the table in that time. Our dates are the 14th, 15th, 17th, 21st and 22nd of September. More dates to come if needed.

Thanks to all those who were able to attend the Special Meeting that took place in August to support our running as a third party for the trustees in Surrey. We have a great group of folks that are running, and we really need to see them get elected. We need change, when cuts can happen throughout the district due to budget but our top District executive and Trustees get wage increase from 13 to 29% while we sit at 3%. There needs to be rules and consistency. There needs to be change. Elections are happening on October 17th, support and vote for folks that will support you! CUPE 728 is endorsing and supporting Surrey's Anne Whitmore, Vick Karan, and Kyle Jones as well as White Rock's Laura Lattanzio.

Coming up at the September GM we will be electing for Labour Councils. This is a monthly commitment, please familiarize yourself with them if you are interested in joining, they are evening meetings in Burnaby, many are online, but some are strictly in person. If you are on an afternoon shift this would be difficult for you to volunteer for.

Thank you again for all your support! Happy September and hope that you all make it to the polls to elect your new bosses!

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy



Vick Kiran

Kyle Jones

Anne Whitmore

Laura Lattanzio

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Summer has been busy and productive. I have been working on grievance settlements and preparing for an upcoming arbitration. I also attended the IESW posting and placement meeting and provided some coverage for one of our shop stewards while they were away.

We have settled five grievances and hope to resolve more in the coming weeks. I hope everyone had some time to rest and spend time with family and friends, even if you worked through the summer.

There is a lot ahead in the next few months, including our Welcome Back BBQ on September 19, 2026, at Chimney Hill. Information has been posted on Facebook and emailed out, and I hope to see everyone there. We also have an election campaign underway and need to help get out the vote for new trustees. Planning is also underway for the children's and adults' holiday parties. The BC Federation of Labour Convention is coming up in November.

Here's to a new school year—I hope it is a great one for everyone.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE ONE

Hope everyone had a great summer. On July 9th, I joined the picket line outside Surrey Memorial Hospital to stand in solidarity with our dedicated healthcare workers. This is about more than wages; it's about safe working conditions, adequate staffing, meaningful support, and protection from workplace violence. As a Support Staff member in the school district, I understand how deeply understaffing and workplace safety affect workers across the public sector.

As an Executive at Large, I believe in showing up, standing together, and supporting workers when it matters most. Our presence and solidarity make a difference.

I've also enjoyed connecting with family, friends, and community members through local events, great food, and meaningful conversations.

Together, we are stronger!



In solidarity, Rabia Waraich

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE TWO

Welcome back fellow union members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and had some time to relax and recharge. I'd like to thank everyone who worked over the summer to help get our schools ready for September. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated. I look forward to working with the executives and our members this year to continue to improve CUPE 728.

One area I would really like to see us improve is attendance at our union meetings whether you intend in person or online your voice and participation matters. Please remind your fellow union members of the importance of attending the meetings and staying involved in our union.

I also look forward to supporting all the extra activities we do together, including our welcome back barbecue, the children's holiday party, and the adult holiday party and many more.

In the coming months, I also will be attending a course offered by the union. I look forward to bringing what I learned back to the membership.

Let's have a great year, supporting one another and continue to make CUPE 728 stronger together.

In solidarity, Melanie Courvoisier

MAINTENANCE TRADES

Summer is done and we crushed it. Thanks for all the hard work you did during the summer break to keep these old buildings up and running. Hopefully you had some time off to chill with a bevy or two.

It's going to be crazy busy for us this month with multiple negotiation dates with the employer, catching up on executive business as well as the inevitable influx of work the new school year brings. We hope to bring a fair deal for all early in the school year so please make sure we have all your information such as personal email at the union office so we can deliver any good news (positive vibes only).

Cheers!

In solidarity, Blair Hofer



STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

Welcome Back to Another School Year! 🍎

I hope you all took some time over the summer break to relax, rest, and rejuvenate. I certainly did, and I also had the privilege of coaching and attending the Special Olympics National Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta. BC was proudly represented by 243 athletes from 42 communities, and our athletes came home with an incredible 350+ medals! What an amazing accomplishment! 🏆👏

As we begin another school year, don't forget to get out and vote on October 17 if you are a Surrey or White Rock resident. Our school trustees make important decisions about the budget and the resources available to our schools and students, so your vote matters.

As our workloads continue to increase while support becomes more limited, let's remember to look out for one another. Let's lift each other up rather than bring each other down. We're all in this together and supporting one another makes a difference.

Our next General Membership Meeting is Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 PM. You must pre-register to attend. You can participate in person at the Union Office or online.

Wishing everyone a safe, successful, and positive start to the new school year! 💙

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

STUDENT SUPPORT TWO

Happy September 🍎

I hope everyone enjoyed their break and is returning rejuvenated.

IESWs who are on Spare board, just a reminder that we cannot pick and choose what calls we are going to accept. When dispatch calls, you are expected to accept the assignment, there is no guarantee you'll be called again.

When calling your shop steward, please remember to leave a voicemail with your contact information and reason for calling.

In solidarity, Cassie Deezar

CARETAKERS

Welcome Back, Caretakers!

As we begin another school year, I want to welcome all our Caretakers back and thank you for the important work you do every day to keep our schools safe, clean, and ready for students, staff, and our communities.

A new school year also means a new opportunity for us to come together as a strong and united collective. Our September General Membership Meeting will be an important one, and I encourage every member to attend.

This meeting will include general updates on the bargaining process, along with a discussion of the important work happening on behalf of our members. While specific details cannot be shared until a tentative agreement is reached, we will provide the information we are able to share at this stage and keep members informed as the process continues. We will also discuss upcoming political action and how each of us can support the priorities of our Union, public education, and the services we provide.

Most importantly, your voice matters. General Membership Meetings are your opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, share ideas, and help shape the direction of our Local. The strength of our Union comes from members who participate, speak up, and stand together.

Let's start this school year strong. Let's set the pace as a collective Union, stand together, and continue building a stronger future for all Caretakers and Support Workers!

I look forward to seeing you at the September General Membership Meeting!

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

CLERICAL

Hello all,

Welcome to my first chronicle update as your new clerical shop steward.

I hope everyone found time for some meaningful relaxation over the summer! Thank you to all of the 12-month employees who remained at work and kept things organized and running.

I personally have been very busy with my union education; I have been fortunate to be able to participate in a number of bargaining sessions, and just last week completed my

shop steward training. I have really enjoyed connecting with a large number of you.

September is always a busy month! I wish everyone a smooth start up, and please don't hesitate to reach out at any time. Don't neglect to take your breaks and make sure to stay hydrated!

In solidarity, Mike Addy

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Hello everyone, I hope everyone got some meaningful rest over the summer months. I want to thank all the 12-month staff who have gotten all our schools cleaned and repaired and ready for the new school year.

I would like to let the members under the School and Community Support Department know that I am here for you if you have any questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me via, email, phone, or by text. If your supervisor asks you to meet with them and you are feeling uncomfortable, please tell them you would like a union representative present for the meeting, and they will have to delay it.

Please let's make this year great for everyone in the school community.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks

HOW TO FILE AN INCIDENT REPORT

1. REPORT TO SUPERVISOR/FIRST AID
2. GO TO <https://staff.surreyschools.ca/> AND SIGN IN
3. GO TO MY EFORMS THEN HEALTH AND SAFETY FOLLOWED BY WORKERS REPORT.
4. FILL OUT FORM TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.
 - a. Please go into as much detail as possible
 - b. Do not use student full names just use Initials
5. Submit the form
6. When you get your copy of the form which will be emailed to you right away, please forward a copy of it to the union at president@cupe728.ca This is important to do so that the union can be involved
7. IF YOU ARE INJURED AND NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION PLEASE CALL WORKSAFE BC at 1-888-967-5377 as well because this will open up a claim for you.
8. The employer should be providing the space, equipment, and most important paid time to complete these reports.

Things to report: Injury to yourself, violent incident by others, bullying and harassment, near misses (accidents that almost happened)

SECRETARY TREASURER

Welcome back to those of you that had time off and/or vacation, I hope your summer was all you hoped it could be. I want to shout out to Shannon Levinsky that assisted with my JEIS duties while I was away travelling with my daughters, and to Theresa Pidcock for providing back up on the tough stuff, thank you both for providing member support in my absence.

The 2025 Audit was rescheduled to 21-25 September, and the 2027 budget has been prepared and presented to the Table Officers. It is ready to be reviewed and finalized by the Executive board and coming soon to members.

July Dues paying members:

- 4523 members paid dues
- 4 newly initiated members
- 1418 considered full-time and receive 37.5 hours
- 3101 receive less than 37.5 hours

Joint Early Interventions as of July 31, 2026:

- 92 members in the initial 120-day elimination period for Long Term Disability
- 9 members are in the process of converting to Long Term Disability
- 143 members are receiving Long Term Disability benefits
- 129 members are receiving Total and Permanent Disability benefits

In solidarity, Cory Hyslop

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Hello all!

Hope you all had a fantastic summer and were able to enjoy some time making memories with family and friends!

It was a busy summer for me. I was in the union office covering some vacation time over the summer. Then spent quite some time working with the political action committee. As you may know or hopefully have heard, we are having our local government elections coming up on October 17, 2026!

Many of you know I always talk about politics and why I believe we should be involved. After all, we are hiring our bosses. This election will be a very important one for all members! We became a Third Party in the summer and have been working hard to share the reasons why we need change. You may have seen our ads in the local paper for

Better Surrey Schools, maybe you are already following our social media accounts! If not, please check them out here:

[Better Surrey Schools – Website](#)

[Better Surrey Schools | Facebook](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/bettersurreyschools?igsi=MWF2OWtuZWRjZmE3Zw==>

You can early vote in Surrey on October 7th, 10th, 14th and 15th from 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. at these locations:

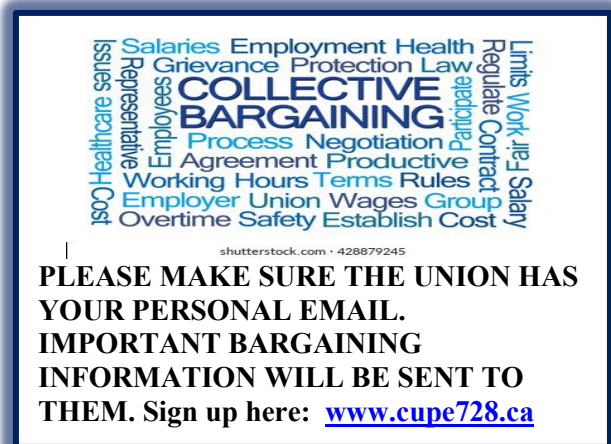
Kwantlen Park Secondary, Guildford Recreation Centre, Fraser Heights Recreation Centre, Fleetwood Community Centre, Frank Hurt Secondary, Princess Margaret Secondary, Ecole Panorama Ridge Secondary, Cloverdale Recreation Centre, Semiahmoo Secondary and Earl Marriott Secondary. See below for link.

[2026_Voting_Locations_Map.pdf](#)

If you don't live in Surrey and would like to know the other labour endorsed candidates, please reach out.

If you have any time you would like to volunteer with us to get the word out, then please reach out to me! We are actively recruiting volunteers. Thank you all for your hard work, dedication and for putting your trust in us! Remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



This day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, explore the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

Start your learning journey today.

Huy ch q'u. Huy tseep q'u. Thank you.
Meegwetch
Hiy Hiy

<https://nctr.ca/>



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.

Rupal K. – sympathy Angela 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.



SCHEDULED BARGAINING DATES WITH EMPLOYER

September 14, 15, 17, 21 and 22

Bargaining with the employer will continue in September, please make sure the union has your personal email for bargaining updates.

You can sign up for email here www.cupe728.ca

WAGE INCREASE RETROACTIVITY

- Employees employed on the date of ratification who were employed on July 1, 2025 shall receive retroactive payment of wage increase to July 1, 2025.
- Employees hired after July 1, 2025 who were employed on the date of ratification shall have their retro-active pay increase pro-rated from their date of hire to the date of ratification.
- Employees who retired between July 1, 2025 and the date of ratification, shall have their retro-active pay increase pro-rated from July 1, 2025 to date of retirement.

Wage ratification will only be paid to members that are employed with the district at the time of ratification. If you quit before ratification, you are not entitled to retro pay. New employees are entitled after the hire date