

CHRONICLE

CUPE LOCAL 728

Volume 53 – Issue 8
#209 – 6678 152 St., Surrey V3S 7J2
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October 2026
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 21st, 2026 - HYBRID

The October 21st 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: **GM ZOOM LINK**
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/XfGJ_3N5S-qJAeeRrheA8w

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Before the October 21st GM at **5:00 p.m.** Q&A with some people running in the Provincial election. **Special Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/iDc9Cb15SeuhXgtKB3J3FA>

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. 2025 Trustee Audit Report
2. 2027 Budget Presentation and Vote
3. Elect four (4) members to attend CLC Winter School in Harison Hot Springs between January 10 – February 12, 2027. **If elected you must email office@cupe728.ca 2 choices ASAP. Please review courses here [2027-WSBrochure-ENG.pdf](#)**
4. Elect Standing Committees:
 - One (1) Education committee member
 - One (1) Young Workers Committee member
5. Elect one (1) Maintenance Trades member as an alternate to the DFC Health & Safety committee.
6. Elect up to fourteen (14) members to the CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council
7. Elect up to eleven (11) members to the New West & District Labour Council.
8. Elect two (2) Sick Bank & Benefit Fund Committee members for the term Oct/26 – Oct/29
9. **Notice of Motion:** Donation to the Surrey Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums.
10. **Notice of Motion:** That CUPE 728 support up to three (3) families identified through the Christmas Bureau, at a cost of up to \$2,000.
11. **Notice of Motion: Bylaw Change - Section 5. Meetings General Regular Membership Meetings**

Current Bylaw:

Meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month alternating between 8 pm and 6 pm. If a statutory holiday, or any other extenuating circumstance intervenes, the Executive Board shall be authorized to change the date of the regular meeting and shall give one week's notice in writing of any change in the date of the regular meeting.

Change to:

Meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month **alternating between 8 pm and** at 6pm. If a statutory holiday, or any other extenuating circumstance intervenes, the Executive Board shall be authorized to change the date of the regular meeting and shall give one week's notice in writing of any change in the date of the regular meeting.

PRESIDENT

Well, we are officially into the school year, and the first month is already complete! Great job, everyone. We appreciate your dedication to our students and schools.

We are also moving full speed ahead with bargaining. We had 5 dates in September and have 6 more set up for October and some for November if necessary. We are moving along and have agreed on some things, have discussed all our non-monetary and are moving on to our monetary discussions.

Remember Municipal Elections are on October 17th and early voting in Surrey is on the 7th, 10th, 14th, and 15th. Please get out and vote for our endorsed candidates for Surrey! Anne Whitmore, Dean McGee, Vick Karan, and Kyle Jones form Our Surrey and Laurie Larsen current trustee. Remember these are the people that make decisions that directly and indirectly affect our schools, our students, and our jobs.

Thank you for all who attended the Welcome Back BBQ. It was a great hit! We had much support from staff and union executive from volunteering to DJing and being our Magician. We could not do it without your support and help!

Although this is a packed month, I will also be travelling to Toronto for two days to participate in CUPE's Governance Committee. I am looking forward to digging into this. Unfortunately, the first meeting was during the first week of school, so I did not attend, so I have a little catch up to do.

Hopefully everyone had the opportunity to attend an event on the National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Many folks shared their pictures with me of the multiple events that were happening in the lower mainland and for those that did not have the opportunity to attend an event that you had the ability to reflect in some way. I loved the fact that many radio stations were playing "A Day to Remember."

Lastly, we have a very busy General Membership meeting on the 21st, and I hope you can attend. **Before the GM, there will also be an information meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. about the Provincial election. We will have 5 or 6 MLA candidates joining us to discuss their platforms and answer a few questions.**

In solidarity, Tammy Murphy



1st VICE PRESIDENT

The past month has been focused on member representation, grievance handling, workplace advocacy, bargaining, and member engagement. Much of my time has been spent assisting members with questions related to postings, transfers, seniority rights, return-to-work matters, accommodations, and collective agreement interpretation. Members continue to reach out with concerns regarding job security, movement between positions, workplace changes, and understanding their rights under the collective agreement.

Grievance work remains a significant part of my responsibilities. We continue to manage several active grievances at various stages of the process, including matters involving postings, seniority, contracting out, higher-rated work, and policy grievances. Several files are advancing through the grievance procedure while others remain in discussion regarding possible resolution. We are still working through an arbitration settlement, and we have a new arbitration coming up, no date set yet.

Our Welcome Back BBQ was held on Saturday, September 19, at Chimney Hill Elementary. It was a wonderful day, and I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make it special: our magician, William Harasymow, our DJ; William Wang, our face painter; Michelle Evans of Balloons with Bliss, Elizabeth from CUPE BC, who brought the van and its supplies; David Huxtable, our national representative; the CUPE executive; our members; and all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

In solidarity, Theresa Pidcock

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Hello all!!

Well, it has been a busy month!! Working with so many amazing volunteers on our Better Surrey Schools Campaign!! Our volunteers were nothing short of amazing!! I appreciate the time and commitment it took to spread the word!! THANK YOU!! Now we VOTE!!

We all had a great time at the Welcome Back BBQ!! Thank you to the executive and friends that came out to welcome everyone back for the upcoming school year!

As you hopefully know, the Municipal Election is fast approaching!! I'm ready to early vote October 7th!! Are you?? Head to <https://www.surrey.ca/2026-municipal-election/voters/where-vote> to find a location near you to vote!

CUPE 728 has endorsed the following people for Trustees: Anne Whitmore, Kyle Jones, Vick Karan, Dean McGee and Laurie Larsen. You can find out more at Better Surrey Schools <https://www.bettersurreyschools.com/>

For our Labour Endorsed Candidates please go to <https://voteforhere.ca/> and you will find all the candidates that are endorsed in the upcoming Municipal Election.

We also have a Provincial Election happening!! You can also vote early for this starting October 16th. I understand the mixed feelings about the election being called early, I hear the concerns. I do want to remind everyone that in the last round of bargaining with the NDP government we got 13.5 % over 3 years!! Yes, that's right...13.5%. Remember that number when you vote. We don't have to love everything about the people we supported in the past, but we do need to remember that they were there for us and the previous government gave us 0's for **16 years**!!

On September 30th I attended the Semiahmoo First Nation National Truth and Reconciliation Day. It's always a great event. Hearing the stories that are shared about the history of the Semiahmoo First Nation and sadly the tragedies too.

I also want to say that the residential school denialism is very unsettling now. Here is a link that I have shared to help people understand just a bit of what our friends and family have been through. This speech is by Senator Murray Sinclair <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4052605>

Finally, September is always crazy getting back to it!! Thank you for all the hard work you do to keep our schools running safely!!

AND, just like that it's October!! Happy Thanksgiving all!! ❤️

In solidarity, Shannon Levinsky

STUDENT SUPPORT TWO

Hello fall 🍁🍂

I'd like to remind members we are still bargaining, if you are looking for bargaining information, please make sure the union has your personal email, and that you attend our monthly GM. Your executive are all volunteers; we are not paid for the work we do. We all work our regular hours during the day and do union work after that. When calling your shop stewards, please leave a voicemail with who you are and what you'd like assistance with. October 29th at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom, we will be having a student support unit meeting.

I'd also like to highlight that toileting is a part of our jobs. When this is required, our members are to be given proper PPE. You should be given gloves, a smock, wipes etc. If this isn't happening, please speak with your admin and IST to make sure it is done.

In solidarity, Cassie Deezar

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE ONE

September was a busy month for our Local and members. A huge thank you to our volunteers, Executive and CUPE 728 staff who helped make our Welcome Back BBQ a success. We enjoyed a

beautiful sunny day with great food, entertainment, games, and activities. These events are possible because of the teamwork and dedication of our members and volunteers.

September also marked the Terry Fox Run and Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As union members and education workers, we continue to recognize the importance of listening, learning, and standing in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples while supporting meaningful reconciliation in our workplaces and communities.

With upcoming elections, I encourage members to stay informed and exercise their right to vote, including in the School Board Trustee election. Issues such as Bill C-39 remind us that decisions made by elected representatives can directly impact workers' rights, public education, public services, and our communities. Your voice and your vote matter! Thank you to our members who continue to participate, volunteer, and strengthen our Local.

In solidarity, Rabia Waraich

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE TWO

September has come and gone, and I hope everyone is settling into their roles within the district. Each and every one of you plays an important part, and your work is valued and appreciated.

Please remember to keep your contact information up to date with the Union. We are still working to correct the Shaw issue, so if you have an alternate email address, please make sure the Union has it.

I really enjoyed participating in the Welcome Back BBQ. From face painting and music to the magic show, hotdogs, and endless treats, it was wonderful to see everyone coming together and having a good time. I think everyone who came out enjoyed themselves.

And remember, change starts with participation. If you haven't voted yet, please make sure you do so by October 17. Thank you, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you around the district!

In solidarity, Melanie Courvoisier

STUDENT SUPPORT ONE

Happy Fall!

Another school year is in full swing! I hope everyone is getting settled in and back into a normal routine.

We have been extremely busy bargaining since the start of the school year, and we sincerely thank you for your continued patience and support as we work through negotiations with our employer.

A big thank-you to everyone who was able to attend the Welcome Back BBQ! It was a great time, with a magician, face painter, DJ, fun games, and, of course, lots of food. It was wonderful to see everyone come out and enjoy some time together.

A friendly reminder that the upcoming Municipal Election is taking place October 17th. I was out pounding the pavement earlier in September, delivering flyers throughout the Summerfield neighbourhood in South Surrey. Make sure you exercise your right to vote and have your voice heard.

We will also be holding our next Unit Meeting on Thursday, October 29th at 4:00 p.m. This is for ALL student support positions. **Please pre-register through zoom link:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0TbY4s_gSOaO4ZW_Cs11aOg

Lastly, please remember that we are all here to support you. However, we also work during the day and are unable to answer or accept calls, emails, or texts during our workday. We will do our best to respond to you within 12-24 hours.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and understanding. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable fall season!

In solidarity, Sheila Simpson

STUDENT SUPPORT THREE

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a good start to the 2026/27 school year! I've had a very busy month with many calls and emails, meetings and being part of the bargaining team. Many of the calls have been regarding return to work. It's important to realize if you have been off for an amount of time, you can't just show up back at your worksite. You will need to send in a medical note clearing you to return to work listing any accommodations needed. Once health services receive this it can take a week or more to process.

As always, I want to encourage you to file your incident reports and stay safe. Happy October and a return to fall.

In solidarity, Nora Hooper

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

September has been a busy month! I have been involved with our local bargaining the past month.

I really want to stress how important it is to get your vote in both the municipal and provincial elections that are happening this month. Municipal and provincial elections matter to everyone of us as unionized school board employees. On October 17, voters will choose local governments and school trustees, and on October 24, British Columbians will vote in the provincial election. These dates matter because the people elected make decisions that affect our schools, our students, our jobs, and our working conditions.

At the local level, school trustees approve budgets, set district priorities, and make policy decisions that shape our daily work. These choices can affect staffing, workload,

student supports, safe facilities, transportation, maintenance, clerical services, custodial work, and inclusive education. As members, we know what is happening in our schools because we see it every day.

The provincial election is just as important. Provincial governments make decisions about education funding, labour laws, public sector bargaining, health and safety rules, and policies that guide every school district. Those decisions affect wages, benefits, job security, training, workload, and the resources students and staff rely on.

As union members, we understand the power of showing up for one another. We stand together at the bargaining table, in our workplaces, and in our communities. Voting is another way we stand together—by making sure the voices of education workers, students, and families are heard loud and clear.

This election season, please make a plan to vote on October 17 and October 24, and encourage your coworkers, friends, and family to do the same. Every vote is a chance to support candidates who value public education, respect union rights, and understand that strong schools depend on strong public services.

Our vote is our voice. Let's use it together.

In solidarity, Allan Henricks



CARETAKERS

Dedicated Caretakers,

We are officially one month into the school year! Thank you for your hard work, even when things haven't started without a few hiccups. Your dedication keeps our schools running safely every day.

- **Stay Active and Stretch:** Working safely does not mean staying still. Keep active, stretch, and exercise both at work and at home to prevent injury and stay strong.
- **Respect the Gradual Return to Work:** The GRTW process is no joke. Please follow your plan's instructions carefully. If you cannot complete a duty, reach out immediately so we can work with WorkSafe to make necessary adjustments.
- **Mindfulness and Solidarity:** Be mindful of those around you and look out for your colleagues. Work as a team, but remember once your shift ends, your life outside of work is yours, so rest and enjoy.

Thank you for everything you do. Let's support one another and make this year a safe, successful one. Unit meeting to be scheduled soon, I'm one call, text or email away don't hesitate to contact, I'll return your message as soon as I can.

In solidarity, Edward Parsotam

DO WE NEED INCIDENT REPORTS: YES! WE NEED THEM!

Let's talk about incident reports. They're easy to put off, but they matter more than most of us realize.

What counts as an incident? Anything that causes, or could have caused, harm at work. That includes:

- A slip, trip, or fall
- A student hitting, kicking, spitting on or biting you
- A strain or sprain from lifting or restraining
- A near miss, where nobody got hurt (this time!)
- Verbal abuse, threats, or harassment

Why do we write them? An incident report is evidence. It's your proof that something happened, when it happened, and what the conditions were. If an injury gets worse later, or a claim is questioned, that report is what everyone goes back to. Memories fade and details get fuzzy, but a report made at the time holds up. It also helps us spot patterns, so hazards get fixed before someone else gets hurt.

When to write one? Every single time. No exceptions. Even if the injury seems small. Even if you're sure you're fine. Plenty of injuries show up days later.

Fill it out as soon as possible and do it during your work hours. You should never be told to do it on your own time. If you're unsure whether something should be included or not, or you need guidance on how to fill out the form, the CUPE 728 website has instructions on how to fill out an incident report, or you can reach out to your shop stewards.

Our Shop Stewards are here to help guide us and give us clarification with any questions we may have.

Look out for one another, stay safe, and always file an incident report. It protects you and your coworkers.

*In solidarity,
District Health & Safety Committee, CUPE Local 728*

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 2026



10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



North Surrey Secondary School

15945 96 Ave, Surrey

Registration form will be emailed out and posted
on the CUPE728 website: www.cupe728.ca



REFLECTING ON THANKSGIVING: EQUITY, UNCEDDED LAND, AND THE HANDS THAT BUILD OUR SCHOOLS

As Thanksgiving approaches across the Surrey School District, our Human Rights and Equity Committee invites educational sector workers to reflect deeply on the true meaning of gratitude and solidarity.

Living and working on the shared, unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the Katzie, Kwantlen, and Semiahmoo First Nations reminds us that Thanksgiving is a complex holiday.

True equity requires honouring Indigenous sovereignty while acknowledging the colonial history intertwined with this season.

As labor advocates, we also honor the essential labor that sustains our school community. Support staff perform vital work every day to ensure safe, inclusive learning environments for all students. Equity in our workplace means recognizing every worker's dignity, upholding fair labor standards, and ensuring no voice is marginalized.

This Thanksgiving, let us champion equity, center reconciliation, and stand united in labor solidarity across Surrey.

Congratulations to the Winners of The Thomas G. Ellis Memorial & CUPE Local 728 Scholarships

\$2,000 Thomas G. Ellis Memorial

- Tisha Basra

CUPE 728 Scholarships:

\$1,000 – Cayley MacMillan

\$500 – Nethrasini Kachchakaduge

\$500 – Alexis Willson

**\$1,000 Scholarship to a student who
identifies as indigenous**

- Carter McPeake
- Keira Skillen



CUPE LOCAL 728

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
DINNER**

DECEMBER 12, 2026

Reflections Banquet and Convention center
6638 152A street
Surrey, BC

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.
BRING YOUR STAFF I.D. TO GET IN

TICKETS: GO ON SALE OCTOBER 30, 2026

MEMBERS – \$30.00

GUESTS - \$50.00

DJ Music Entertainment

Prizes 50/50 Draw Cash Bar

TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE GO TO THE UNION OFFICE:

Union office: #209 – 6678 152 ST., Surrey

****CASH ONLY EXACT CHANGE****

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER 9, 2026 - 4:00 pm OR UNTIL SOLD OUT