

CUPE 523 Chronicle

Fall 2014

Solidarity Mattered

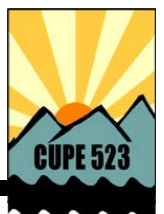
On November 22nd, 2014, Unit SD83 held a special meeting and vote on the issue of Separation.

The debate was informative and respectful and a large turnout of voters gave the Unit fair representation. The motion to pursue separation was defeated and the Unit will remain as part of CUPE Local 523.

This decision along with ratified Collective Agreements, for both the K-12 sector and Social Services, means that our Local can now concentrate on the business at hand and our members!

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Presidents Message

The challenge of the separation campaign is safely behind us and we are once again 1200 members strong. This first challenge in my new office was an exhausting but informative and productive project. I am excited to say that I was able to talk to many of the members of Unit 83 and both president and members report an increased sense of connection.



The next item on the agenda is to investigate the future of bringing the local closer to together. This will include gathering information around both electronic communications such as video conferencing and the people to people connection of Unite for Fairness. The 5 year time frame of our collective agreement presents us with both a risk and benefit of time. The risk is that without contentious struggles to keep us seeking each other's support, our members could become complacent and disconnected from their union. The benefit is that we will have ample time to explore the social and personal connections borne of fun rather than work. I look forward to getting out to the work sites around our local to listen to the concerns and hopes of members and to bring the reassurance that the executive will remain vigilant and progressive in its pursuit of safe, productive, and respectful employment.

I encourage each of you to visit the website regularly, attend meetings, and take advantage of the many education courses that are available to members. I look forward to whatever the next year may bring and thank you for your support.

In Solidarity,

Sylvia Lindgren
President
CUPE Local 523



National Rep: Rob Hewitt swearing in your newly elected Executive Members.
José van Berkel-Secretary Treasurer, Sylvia Lindgren-President, Deb Johnson-2nd VP, Roberta Hormes-Trustee, Bonnie Keir-3rd VP, Sean Harris-1st VP.

www.





All CUPE K-12 Locals ratify collective agreements

BURNABY- CUPE's 57 BC K-12 Local bargaining committees have reached and ratified collective agreements, meeting the November 30 deadline.

"We're pleased that all locals were able conclude local bargaining issues by the November 30 deadline," says K-12 Presidents' Council Chair Marcel Marsolais. "Locals can now focus and look forward to the gains we achieved in this round of bargaining."

Locals bargained individually with school districts to achieve local agreements that added to the provincial framework agreement ratified by the K-12 Presidents' Council in June.

Highlights of the framework agreement include increased hours for education assistants, improvements to extended health benefit plans through standardization, and a commitment to implement a job evaluation plan to address recruitment and retention issues.

Sector coordinators John Horsfield and Rob Hewitt congratulated locals for finalizing bargaining.

"Locals worked hard to achieve contracts that support members and students in K-12," said Horsfield. "Ensuring this agreement was fully funded by the government was a huge issue and we look forward to putting into place the positive gains made."

CUPE represents more than 27,000 education support workers in 57 Locals and 53 school districts throughout B.C. including: education assistants, school secretaries, caretakers, First Nations support workers, IT workers, Strong Start facilitators, trades and maintenance workers, and bus drivers.

December 2, 2014

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/news/3601>

Education Opportunities ...

Contact the Education Rep. in your unit to request to attend courses that are being offered through CUPE BC.

www.cupe.bc.ca/resources/union-education

www.523.cupe.ca



Family Fun Day, 2014



Unit SD83, It was a Wonderful day!!
105 people attended....Lots of fun had by all!



& loads of smiles
with Unit SD67

www.523.cupe.ca



Unit SD67

Supports Local 2014 Science Fair

At the end of last school year, Unit SD67 member's made a donation with their E.I. Funds to the SD67 District Science Fair. Simon Carter came in 2nd out of 77 projects at the SD67 District Science Fair this year for his project "Don't Curdle Your Herbal".

He then moved onto the Regional Science Fair held in Kelowna. There he won a Silver for his backboard display and placed Silver for his project. Simon also won the BC Science Teacher's Award, Great work!



CUPE Member, Tammy Carter with her son Simon at the SD67 District Science Fair.

Our Units are spending their E.I. Funds in many different ways, attend a Unit meeting to find out more!

www.523.cupe.ca



Executive Retreat

Osoyoos, 2014



In March 2014, an Executive Retreat was held in Osoyoos BC. CUPE Local 523 Executive members and representatives from each Unit came together to **Educate**, **Share** and **Exchange** ideas about our union and creating a stronger local.



John Howard Society

We are pleased to announce the launching of our new website. It will be full of great content and program information:

www.jhsnok.ca

List of our programs:



ADDICTIONS RECOVERY PROGRAMS:

- BILL'S PLACE, ADDICTIONS RECOVERY HOME, SOBER LIVING APARTMENTS – Men's program
- ALCOHOL & DRUG HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM – Men's program
- INTERVENTION SERVICES

SUBSTANCE USE TESTING:

- PRIVATE SUBSTANCE USE TESTING & SCREENING
- CORRECTION SERVICES CANADA SUBSTANCE USE TESTING

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS:

- WORK BC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
- HOWARD INDUSTRIES – Not for profit social enterprise

LOW BARRIER SHELTER SERVICES:

- EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PROGRAM – Seasonal overflow shelter
- GATEWAY SUPPORT SERVICES

HIGH BARRIER SHELTER PROGRAMS:

- MEN'S SHELTER – Men's program

HOUSING PROGRAMS:

- HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM
- TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM – Men's program

John Howard
 JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY
 of North Okanagan/Kootenay



www.523.cupe.ca



Communication Matters

Make sure that you stay informed of important information, events, Unit and General Meetings that are happening in our Local.

Ways to Stay in the Know:

Email Updates from your Unit Chair and your Executive (so make sure that we have your email address!)

Our **Website** has all of our Local Information

Check your site **Bulletin Board**

Attend **Unit & General Meetings** And



Again, we want to **THANK** All of our members for their Solidarity throughout the weeks of job action with the BCTF.



www.523.cupe.c



NOYFSS

North Okanagan Youth & Family Services Society

During the Kalamalka Rotary meeting held on November 13th, two speakers from the North Okanagan Youth & Family Services Society. Jan Shumay and Dean Francks who told them about the renovations done to an older home that the society is using to house eight youth.

Part of this work was funded by our club using funds from an early Dream Auction. NOYFSS is a non-profit charitable organization who's mission is to serve our community by providing a broad range of programs which promote, nurture, and protect the healthy development of our children, youth and their families.

Please look at their website for more information about the society and the youth & family programs available through the Society – www.NOYFSS.org



(photo shows Rotarian Courtney Satchell on the left, with Jan & Dean)
Article & photo courtesy of the; Kalamalka Rotary Facebook page

Executive List

President:

Sylvia Lindgren Email: lindgren.sylvia@gmail.com
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Contacts

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Upcoming General Meetings

All members are encouraged to attend!

January 17th	Village Green Hotel 4801– 27th Street	Vernon
February 18th	The Dec 110 - 2960 Okanagan Ave. SE	Salmon Arm

If you have any ideas or additions for the next issue please contact a member of the communication committee.

Local Bylaws, Section 4, d):

Members shall be paid mileage to attend general meetings when they are driving two or more other members to the general meeting.

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