

CUPE 523



Welcome to the first issue of the CUPE 523 newsletter.

The first order of the day is to name the newsletter....

Keep in mind that the newsletter is meant to inform you and keep you up to date on the issues of bargaining, workplace safety, and many other workplace issues. But, keep a sense of humour. Be serious, but not too serious. I will be accepting ideas for the name of the newsletter for the next month. Make it simple, clean, perhaps tongue in cheek. The name should describe what you will find in the newsletter but we also want it to be catchy.

Nothing too dry and nothing that is copy righted to someone else. Send your ideas to sqlind94@gmail.com and the communication committee will choose the winner. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

Now, for the editor's note....the best part of being editor. A virtual podium where I can express my ideas or bring attention to an issue that is particularly interesting to me. For this first issue, I will go easy on you and just welcome you to the new format for getting the news out to you.

As you may have noticed, this issue is arriving in your mailbox but in the interest of cost, saving trees, and expediency, we would like to issue our newsletters directly to your inbox. If we don't have your personal email address, get it to us (jvanberk@hotmail.com). I will add you to the ever growing list of people who want to stay informed. We can't use your school district or other work email address so please send your home address. Talk to you all soon.

Sylvia Lindgren....your editor

Next General Meeting

January 2013

Keep an eye on the website for more info.

BARGAINING ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED





CUPE members and their families enjoy the Go Kart Day sponsored by CUPE 523.

OH&S Committee

Unsafe Work

As a CUPE member in British Columbia YOU have the legal right to refuse unsafe work, according to the Workers' Compensation Act, Occupational Health and Safety Regulation – Section 3.12. When YOU believe that a work process or operation of a tool or equipment presents an undue hazard to YOUR health or safety, or to the health and safety of any person, then YOU can refuse that work.

Here's how YOU can refuse unsafe work....

If you believe that an undue hazard exists at your worksite, you are forbidden to carry out any work.

1. Notify your supervisor or employer of the unsafe condition, and your refusal to work.
2. The supervisor or employer must investigate and remedy the situation without delay, and inform you of the results.

3. If you are not satisfied with the remedy, you can still refuse to work. The supervisor or employer must conduct the investigation with you and the workers' health and safety representative or union.
4. If the investigation does not resolve the matter, continue to refuse to work.
5. Either you or your employer must inform an officer of the Workers' Compensation Board to investigate.

You cannot be disciplined for complying with the legislation and regulations according to the Worker's Compensation Act. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation – Section 3.13

YOU HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKPLACE

If you have any question feels free to contact any CUPE 523 OH&S rep.

Submitted by James L. Fox
On behalf of CUPE 523 OH&S Committee

CUPE UNION facts:

CUPE is the largest union in Canada.

It was founded in 1963 and has 615000 members.

Canadian unions gave workers:

Weekends,
paid holidays,
medical care,
employment
insurance,
fair hours, union
wages
and labour day.

CUPE BC delegates:

Jean Frolek
Colleen Weins
Jose van Berkel
Allison Reign
Sean Harris
1st alt. James Fox
2nd alt. Heather Reid

BC Fed delegates:

Jean Frolek
James Fox
Larry DuPont
Dion Boisvenue

Looking for Email addresses

Future Newsletters will be emailed.

Please send your email address to jvanberk@hotmail.com and indicate in the subject line "CUPE 523 Email".

Message from the President

Your Local:

I'm sure that all of us have been busy since school has started up again for another year. There's the start up in the office, getting to know new students, maintaining the buildings, helping teachers with interim report cards and keeping and preparing the grounds for the quickly approaching winter season. We've had a General Meeting for the Local; had an election for the executive of this local. Then there's the demands of normal family life: Thanksgiving, hockey, families, Hallowe'en, Remembrance Day!.....We are a busy group of people aren't we?

I want to say a BIG "THANK YOU" to all those I'm fortunate enough to

work with as your executive of Local 523. You have a group of people who are dedicated Union activists working for you. The last couple of months have seen a number of activities happening in and for Local 523. Those activities have ranged from training such as: Job Evaluation, shop steward training, financial officer training, occupational health & safety and retirement planning. I've been fortunate to attend shop steward meetings, Unit meetings and a "Meet and Greet" at a school district in our Local. There have also been fun activities such as a golf tournament in one unit and a go-cart day in another. And of course, there's bargaining, both with our Social Services brothers and sisters, and with the K-12 units.

What a busy time of year is still ahead of us. Please remember during the upcoming season to take some time to remember what's really important to you. Please also remember that if you need any assistance at work to contact your shop steward and/or Unit chair. And please remember to attend a Local 523 meeting. As I said at the college course, "this organization is one that is based from the ground up; it's the members who make it what it is". You are the members and this is your union.

Enjoy the upcoming season, keep safe.

In Solidarity

Jean Frolek
President
Local 523 CUPE

CUPE 523

New executive:

President Jean Frolek
1st Vice President James Fox
2nd Vice President Karsten Bellows
3rd Vice President VACANT
Recording secretary Jose van Berkel
Secretary treasurer Colleen Weins

Unit chairs:

John Howard Society
- Larry DuPont
NOYFS Craeg Pohorelic
SD 19 Clara Maltby
SD 53 Sean Harris
SD 67 Mike Johnson
SD 83 Heather Reid

Our office:
288 Westminster Ave.
Penticton, BC
Our phone number:
250-492-2982
Our website:
<http://cupe523.ca>