

Dear Unit 53 Members,

I would like to start out by thanking each and every one of you for the dedication and effort you have put into working under such challenging circumstances. The last few months have not been easy and filled with constant changes and little information to go on. This is the face of COVID-19 and each of you have “rolled with it” in honorable, creative and supportive ways. Stories of how support staff have stepped up and made a difference to students and communities during this time continue to pour in and I hope in all the chaos, you have had a moment to reflect on a job well done.

### **June and Beyond....**

June will be an interesting and unprecedented month filled with lot of unknowns. That being said, your OH&S committee, Unit Chairs and Shop Stewards are working hard to ensure that all workplaces are safe and secure. Please follow this link and find the contact information for your Stewards and Unit Chair <https://523.cupe.ca/files/2020/03/Unit53-Contacts-2020.pdf>.

Each School District has been given direction by BCPSEA to offer on site and online learning. What this will look like is based on the needs of your individual site. Your Supervisor or Administrator should be informing you of weekly plans and changes. Please let your Stewards or Unit Chair know if this is not being communicated.

At this time, we have not been given any information of what September will look like but will continue to work closely with School District Staff throughout the summer and into the fall.

### **Exposure Control Plan ECP**

Each School District in BC is required to have an Exposure Control Plan. An ECP is a document created by a workplace in response to an identified risk, and it documents the specific and appropriate controls that will minimize or eliminate that risk. SD 53 has created this document and the Union has been informed that this has been shared with employees at the site level. It is also on the website <https://www.sd53.bc.ca/apps/pages/COVID-19Informationandresources>

### **JOHS Committee**

Please take a moment to review the minutes of your school site Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee report. Each site is required to meet monthly and all meeting minutes are posted at each site. Every site committee should have met prior to students attending June 1. If you have any questions please contact your site CUPE rep or contact Unit 53 CUPE 523 Committee reps Charlene Turnbull [2vp@cupe523.com](mailto:2vp@cupe523.com) and Anne Selsing [3vp@cupe523.com](mailto:3vp@cupe523.com). They can assist with any health and safety concerns or questions you may have.

### **Short Term Disability and General Leaves**

If you have any questions about leaves to the end of the school year, please contact one of your Stewards or Kris Keith for direction and advice.

For information on CERB including those that qualify please click on the following link  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/financial-benefits>

### **Collective Agreement**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> CUPE 523 and School District 53 signed the final document of the July 2019- June 2022 Collective Agreement. It will be posted on the School Districts and CUPE 523 website in the next few days and printed shortly. We will notify members when printed copies will be available. Thank you for your patience through the lengthy process and if you have any questions regarding any of the Articles please reach out to your Stewards, Unit Chair or myself.

Throughout this email I have referenced your Shop Stewards, Unit Chair and Executive Committee. These members have stepped up to take active roles in the daily business of our Local and have been working extremely hard to stay informed, seek information and provide assistance to all our members. I would like to Thank each of them for putting in many volunteer hours especially in the last few months. These are the people you can turn to when you have questions, concerns or need clarification on a particular matter. Your Stewards and Unit Chair have been elected to represent your Unit and look forward to hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them.

### **Website and Facebook Page**

Just a reminder to check out our Facebook page and website for local information. Our website lists contacts, previous emails and up to date COVID information. If there is something you wish to see on these sites please share those ideas with our Recording Secretary Erica McDowell [rec\\_sec@cupe523.com](mailto:rec_sec@cupe523.com) or our Communications Vice President Charlene Turnbull [2vp@cupe523.com](mailto:2vp@cupe523.com)

We would also like to thank each of you for the emails, phone calls and well wishes you have sent our way. Your questions have been great, and we are grateful for the emails outlining your concerns as rank and file members. Your Unit Chair has had weekly contact and meetings with the district and has raised those issues and will continue this process through the next month and beyond.

We wish each of you a safe month at work and home. Please take some time to enjoy moments of rest and relaxation. While we still maintain physical distancing and are mourning the loss of many of our usual pre summer activities I know that we will create alternate plans that give us joy and hope and happiness.

In Solidarity,

Tammie Koroluk  
President Local 523.  
[president@cupe523.com](mailto:president@cupe523.com)

Kris Keith  
Unit Chair  
[unit53@cupe.com](mailto:unit53@cupe.com)