

# Local 523 Newsletter

## CONTENTS

### PAGE 1

President's Message

### PAGE 2

Bargaining

Health and Safety

Unit 83 Message

### PAGE 3

TPCS Message

SD53 Message

NOYFSS Message

### PAGE 4

SD67 Message

Executive/Unit  
contact link

Website and  
Facebook link

## President's Message

By: Tammy Carter

*Relax, Recharge, Stay Safe and Enjoy Summer.*

As we enter summer, I want to thank all of you for a job well done. This past year and a half have been a difficult one. You have worked continuously through the pandemic, adjusting to the new 'norm', and you still come out to do your job daily. I know it has been a difficult one and I applaud you today.

Thank you all for the patience you have given the executive this past year as we all learn how to deal with the pandemic. Not only in the pandemic but also in the changes amongst the executive, thank you for the patience and support.

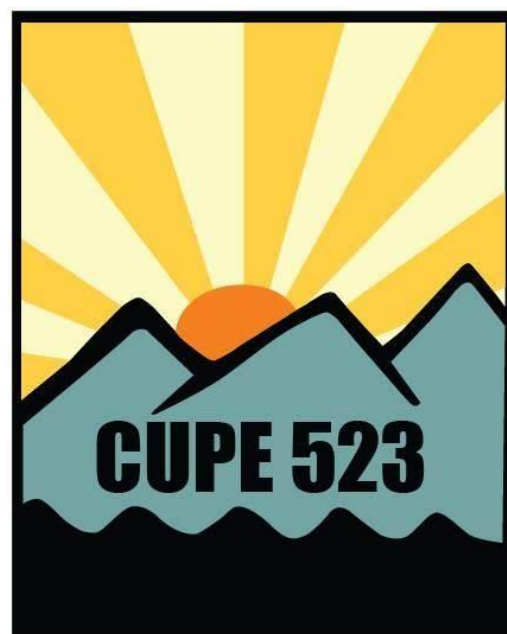
I want to take a moment to thank the executive. The executive has been working and volunteering a lot of their time to make sure that the jobs are getting done within the local and the units. These are big

roles that the executive fill and I applaud them today. I am looking forward to my term with you all. Try to get some rest over the summer.

While some of us are on a layoff this summer, some of you are still working. I hope that all of you can find some time to relax, recharge and enjoy whatever you decide to do this summer.

Thank you.

Tammy Carter  
President, Local 523  
[president@cupe523.com](mailto:president@cupe523.com)



## Bargaining Update

We have formed our bargaining team for each unit.

There will be 12 members total for this committee.

Each unit will have 2 representatives and the President and Secretary Treasurer.

As a committee we have already met about 3-4 times. As we enter the fall, please look for updates about bargaining. The bargaining committee will continue to meet in the fall.

Over the summer, if you have ideas, questions, concerns about the Collective Agreement, the bargaining, please take note of them.

When we have a meeting, you can bring them forward.



## Health and Safety

**We all share the benefits of a healthy and safe workplace.**

A HUGE Shout Out to all the OH&S Site Committee members.

You have put in a lot of work this past year and a half, helping to keep our schools safe and guiding our members through concerns. Thank you for all your dedication to your school sites, as well as to the Union. Take some time over the summer and recharge. I know you will continue to do the work as a committee member, and I thank you for this.

Also, a huge shout out to the Local OH&S Committee members. You have continued to support each other, the site committee members, as well as the unit chairs. Thank you for the continued dedication.

Shout Out to the members, thank you again for all you do. Bringing safety concerns to your committees is very helpful and sometimes hard to do. Please continue to bring these concerns forward. Thank You.

If you are wanting to get involved or not sure who your unit health and safety people are, please go to the CUPE website to find your units contact list. Click on your unit once you open this link.

<https://523.cupe.ca/about-us/your-executive/>

## UNIT 83 MESSAGE FROM UNIT CHAIR JAMES FOX

### *Unit 83 Year End Address*

I would like to thank all C.U.P.E. members for their hard work during the last year. Right now, it looks like next school year will be a return to somewhat normal.

Next year we are going into bargaining. I will be having departmental meetings to get your input heading into negotiations. More information in the fall about these meetings. If you have any bargaining concerns, feel free to e-mail me at [unit83@cupe523.com](mailto:unit83@cupe523.com)

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Summer Break.

In Solidarity,

James L. Fox  
Unit Chair 83  
[unit83@cupe523.com](mailto:unit83@cupe523.com)  
(250) 550 – 6067

## Unit TPCS message from Unit Chair Roxanne Round

Thank you all for your patience while there has been a transition with the Unit Chair role.

I want to thank Bob Crozier for all he has done as the Unit Chair before me.

## School District 53 Message from the Unit Chair

As we are gearing down to the end of the school year. I want to wish you all a Happy Relaxing Summer, take the time to spend with loved ones! This year has been a tough one with the current pandemic going on, and we need to be mindful of how everyone's stress levels are and be thankful that we work in a great School District.

Things that have been happening in the district, Post and fill for Support Staff, Summer applications for grounds work, and we also had a few hours cut back for custodial positions, which is sad as we know how important clean schools are. We also will be sending out cheques from our EI rebates to Fire and Rescue, and to each area to the volunteer fire departments. Giving back is important to our Communities and I hope we continue to support them!

I have been working hard with the district on a positive working relationship and making sure that we are following the Collective Agreement.

I am also looking for some new Stewards to join our Team, if you are Interested, please let me know

Please look for more information from me as I introduce myself in a separate email.

Also, look for more information about Bargaining in the fall.

Feel free to connect with me, my contact information is:

Roxanne Round  
[tpcs@cupe523.com](mailto:tpcs@cupe523.com)  
1-250-540-0145

or contact one of our Stewards! We are working together on making sure our working environment is successful and would benefit with a few more Stewards.

This upcoming year is our Bargaining year and SD53 Bargaining Committee consists of Myself, Melanie Harriman, Tammy Carter (president), and Kyle Clark (sec Treasurer). We have started to collaborate on this process and will set up some Bargaining Meetings for some input from our members. Please watch for those in the Fall.

I want to make sure all our CUPE members are working in a safe environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. You can also keep up to date from our CUPE website. <https://523.cupe.ca/> or our Facebook page!

Please take care, have a wonderful Summer and I look forward to serving you as your Unit Chair!

Charlene Turnbull  
SD53 Unit Chair  
[Sd53@cupe523.com](mailto:Sd53@cupe523.com)  
250-485-7302

## NOYFSS Message

### Unit Chair Samantha Symons

My name is Samantha Symons. I am a Child and Family Counsellor at North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society. I am the current Unit Chair for NOYFSS.

I have worked since 2011 in the Family Services program, the School Based Outreach program, and have recently added Quality Assurance to my role at NOYFSS.

I have been active in Local 523 as the Good and Welfare rep., an OH&S rep. and as a Shop Steward. I have taken extensive training related to these roles and have served as Steward on matters such as Policy and Individual grievances, JLM work, and Local Issues Bargaining. I have also taken a Local Executive Training [LET] course.

I believe strongly in union solidarity, respectful and assertive relationships with employers, and the need to stand firmly against employer efforts to advance their managerial needs at the expense of working people, our members. I believe that this is better achieved when our Local maintains a highly organized approach to grievance management. This means consistent adherence to processes and timelines, consistent outcomes across all Units and assurance of relevant learning and training opportunities for Shop Stewards and the Local.

I hope you have a relaxing summer and I look forward to meeting you all. Please look for bargaining updates in the fall.

In Solidarity,

Samantha Symons  
NOYFSS Unit Chair  
[noyfss@cupe523.com](mailto:noyfss@cupe523.com)  
250-306-9722

## SD67 June 2021 Hello CUPE Members

What a year it has been. Who could have ever believed that we would all not only live through a global pandemic, but be on the front lines of it?

I am thankful at the end of this school year for each and every one of you members. From the CEA's who took care of some of our most vulnerable populations, to the custodians who kept our schools so clean and covid safe, to the secretarial staff who have had the challenge of keeping track of distance learners, "offsite" learners, different cohorts, etc. Our tech department who kept us all going and connected both in person and through distance education. And of course, our grounds and entire maintenance crew who have made it smooth sailing inside and outside the schools. Thank you to each and every one of you. It's certainly been the most challenging year of my career, and I'm guessing a lot of you feel this same.

Learning the new role of Unit Chair for SD 67 has been a whirlwind these past few months. There are so many of you to meet and get to know. I look forward to meeting many more of you and encourage you to contact me at any time if you have a concern, a complaint, questions about the

collective agreement, or if you just want to vent! I also have amazing Shop Stewards working with me who are always available to hear your concerns... Shirley Haley, Roberta Hormes, Molly Ehmann, Matt Ferguson, Pat Styles, and, most recently, Mike Parsons. All of our names and phone numbers can be found on your school bulletin boards. I am thankful to the seasoned stewards as well as our President Tammy Carter for helping me as acclimate to this new position.

As we head into the 2021/2022 year, we want all of our members to know that this is a bargaining year. We'll be hard at work doing our utmost to bring you the best contract for the next four years. We can't do it alone though; we need to hear from you. Meetings will be scheduled throughout next year, and we'll be looking for your feedback in a variety of ways. To do this, we need to be able to contact you! Please take a moment to ensure we have your most recent phone number, email address and mailing address on file. Click on this link, it will just take moments.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION HERE PLEASE

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=AZ39VyH87k04tzwNb5kv9cWeUIN4gpFGsb3JljqDWutUNUpZSzA20VjORUJWWTkzR1gwR0dJSUdEUSQIQCN0PWcu>

Please mark your calendars and save the date.... As we look to the future and gathering restrictions ease, we will be holding a **"Back to School Celebration"** at Loco Landing for ALL CUPE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. This will be on Saturday, September 11th, 2021. Please plan to attend and look to your school bulletin boards for more information as the date gets closer.

I wish you all a calm, relaxing and safe summer. Please take care of yourselves as we ease back into life as the pandemic lessens and "reality" returns. A reminder to everyone to utilize our Lifeworks program if you're feeling like you need some help with any mental health issues you may be feeling at this time. You can access it at any time here:

[www.lifeworks.com](http://www.lifeworks.com)

(email a steward for the password)

Sincerely,

Terri Phillips  
SD67 Cupe Unit Chair  
250-488-6968  
Unit67@cupe523.cOM

Once again, we want to thank you for everything you do.

If there is something you are looking for, please go to the website and Facebook page. You can also contact your steward or Unit Chair.

Also, make sure we have your up-to-date contact information, name, email, mailing, phone number. In a bargaining year, we want to make sure we do not miss anyone.

A reminder that we all need to be communicating through our personal emails not our work emails.

## Executive/Unit/ Committee Contacts

Check out our website for a list of these contacts.

[www.523.cupe.ca](http://www.523.cupe.ca)

For your unit, click on the unit link off this page.

Facebook – If you want to follow us, please go to this link.

[www.facebook.com/cupe.bc.ca](http://www.facebook.com/cupe.bc.ca)