

CUPE Local 523
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

Annual CUPE BC Convention

CUPE' BC 58th Annual

Delegates are preparing for this years convention
held in Victoria BC

The 2022 CUPE BC Convention will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre (720 Douglas Street, Victoria), commencing at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, continuing through until 4:00 pm on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

Under current Provincial Health Orders, the Victoria Conference Centre is required to obtain proof of two vaccination doses as of October 24, 2021. Face coverings and masks must be worn indoors for all people aged 5 years and above. These policies are subject to change per the BC Provincial Government guidelines

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Presidents Message

Feb 2022

It has been a while since the last time we connected through a newsletter. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, Holiday, and a safe New Year. As the New Year arrived, so did more changes from the government.



As we all navigate these times, I encourage you to take care of yourself. I remind you that the executive is here for you. Reach out to your Unit Chair and/or a shop steward if there is something you need assistance with.

I want to thank you for the work that you continue to do on a daily basis.



CUPE Local523 Executive Elections

A call for nominations for Executive positions took place during our General meeting, held on February 5th, 2022.

You can go to our website <https://523.cupe.ca> and find the bylaws to read about each position. There was a notice of meeting that went out to your personal emails. If you did not get this information, please go to the website, and join the email list.

Executive Elections:

Secretary-Treasurer (2-year position) Kyle Clark , SD83

1st Vice President (2 year position) Election Meeting on March 5, 2022

2nd Vice President (1-year position) Lorie Zachariuk , SD67

3rd Vice President (2 year position) Sylvia Lundgren , SD83

Trustee (3-year position) Penny Gray, SD83

and a (2-year position)

Local Entertainment Committee (2 positions)

Shawn Melnyk, SD67

Roberta Hormes, SD67

Kaeli Crawford, SD83

Voting for unfilled positions will take place at a special election meeting

Sat March 5, 2022, starting at 10am.

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



Bargaining

All 5 units are moving through the bargaining process. Surveys were sent out to all units encouraging members to participate and note their concerns or issues to bring to the table.

The bargaining committee met for several days in January to review the provincial bargaining survey results and draft proposals to best address the concerns raised by members.

The bargaining committees have set unit/bargaining meetings for each unit. You will receive an email about these meetings. You can make sure you are getting these emails by joining our email list on the website - <https://523.cupe.ca>

If you have any bargaining concerns/questions etc.. I encourage you to attend one of the meetings as well as you can email your bargaining team. Your bargaining team consists of the following for each unit.

TPCS

Unit Chair - Roxanne Round - tpcs@cupe523.com

Shop Steward - Bob Crozier - rwbobcrozier.377@gmail.com

President - Tammy Carter - president@cupe523.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Kyle Clark - sec_treasurer@cupe523.com

NOYFSS

Unit Chair - Samantha Symons - noyfss@cupe523.com

Shop Steward - Alicia Mercer - alicamercer@gmail.com

President - Tammy Carter - president@cupe523.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Kyle Clark - sec_treasurer@cupe523.com

Unit 53

Unit Chair - Charlene Turnbull - unit53@cupe523.com

Shop Steward - Melanie Harriman -
melaniejharriman@gmail.com

President - Tammy Carter - president@cupe523.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Kyle Clark - sec_treasurer@cupe523.com

Unit 83

Unit Chair - James Fox -
unit83@cupe523.com

1st vice president - Kelly Stalker -
1vp@cupe523.com

President - Tammy Carter -
president@cupe523.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Kyle Clark -
sec_treasurer@cupe523.com

Unit 67

Unit Chair - Terri Phillips -
unit67@cupe532.com

Member rep - Bonnie Hartskamp -
dkb@shaw.ca

President - Tammy Carter -
president@cupe523.com

Secretary-Treasurer - Kyle Clark -
sec_treasurer@cupe523.com



The K-12 sector provincial bargaining committee will open negotiations with the B.C. Public School Employers Association on February 8th, with nine days of negotiations scheduled between then and March 3rd.

The K12 sector provincial bargaining committee includes elected representatives from each region. In the Okanagan they are:

Gray Boisvert

Tammy Carter

James Fox (alternate)

The bargaining committee will be sending out regular bulletins as negotiations progress. Watch for them at bcschools.cupe.ca, directly from our local, on our website cupe523.ca and on our CUPE 523 Facebook page.

Be sure we have your email. Add it to our cupe523.ca mail list.

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

www.523.cupe.ca



OMDC

Okanagan Mainline District Council (OMDC)

The Okanagan Mainline District Council is made up of locals located in the Interior of British Columbia. Some locals that affiliate with the council are city workers, library workers, college/universities, social sectors, k-12 sector and more.

The council meets about 4 times a year. They are meeting over zoom right now but when they can meet in person these meetings rotate between Penticton, Kamloops, Kelowna and Vernon.

The meetings are held on a Saturday. We as a local have 7 seats at this council.

If you are interested in attending one or more of these meetings, please reach out to Tammy Carter, President or Local 523 at president@cupe523.com

For further information please visit OMDCs

Website <https://omdc.cupe.ca/> and

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/Okanagan-Mainline-District-Council>



NOBLC

North Okanagan Boundary Labour Council (NOBLC)

We have 7 delegates that can attend these meetings. As of right now, we only have two people attending. They are meeting over zoom and it is easy to join in on the meetings. They meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm and take the summer months off from meetings.

If you are from either TPCS, NOYFSS or SD83 and would like to attend these meetings, please send an email to Tammy Carter, President of Local 523 at president@cupe523.com

SOBLC

South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council (SOBLC)

We have 7 delegates that can attend these meetings. As of right now, we only have one person attending. They are meeting over zoom and it is easy to join in on the meetings. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm and take the summer months off from meetings. If you are from either SD53 or SD67 and would like to attend these meetings, please send an email to Tammy Carter, President of Local 523 at president@cupe523.com

Those who attend will report back to the local on what was discussed and what is happening within the labour council. Check out the SOBLCs website

www.southokanaganlabour.ca/ and their

Facebook page www.facebook.com/SOBLC for further information.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write this, I am reflecting on how grateful I am for all of you and everything you do daily. I appreciate you all for the dedication and work you continue to do during these trying times that we are in.

I want to thank the 2nd vice president, Lorie Zachariuk who is the Chair of the communications committee, for our newsletters. Also, the reps from each unit who sit on the communications committee as well as Recording Secretary Erica McDowell. Thank you as well to the Unit Chairs for submitting an update about their units in the newsletter. Thank you for your commitment to your roles and the great newsletters that you all work hard at.

As you may be aware, there were elections at our general meeting on February 5th. Listed in this newsletter are the results thus far. Thank you to all who attended this meeting. Mark your calendars for our special voting meeting on March 5th via Teams, where we will fill the remaining positions. I want to thank Karsten Bellows for stepping in to assist the executive with the 3rd vice president role in the fall. Karsten has decided to not sit in this role anymore and we wish you all the best Karsten. Thank you again for all you do.

Bargaining is happening in all 5 units this year. All 5 units bargain individually which makes it a busier time for all the bargaining committee. Along with Bargaining within our units, I am grateful for the opportunity to sit on the K-12 Provincial Bargaining Committee. I am learning a lot about bargaining. Bob Crozier from TPCS (Turning Points Collaborative Society) sits on the CSS (Community Social Service) Provincial Bargaining Committee. I am thankful that our local has two people representing our members at the provincial table as well. Please refer to the newsletter with a breakdown of who your bargaining team is for this round. If you have any bargaining concerns, I encourage you to attend your units bargaining meeting to give input. As well, you can always email the bargaining team. The bargaining team is hopeful that we can participate in bargaining training.

There are a lot of things that I as president do daily as well as attending meetings as part of my role. I thought I would share a few things that I do. JLMs (Joint Labour Management) (Joint Labour Management) – Joint Labour Management Meetings in all units. JE (Job Evaluation) for the school districts. K-12 President's Council Meetings. TOSCC (Thompson Okanagan School Coordinating Committee). All President's Council Meetings. Okanagan Presidents meeting for the K-12 Sector as well as CSS Sector. I also do the best I can to attend all the school district board meetings as we, the union, are kept up to date on what the districts are doing and planning. These are only a few meetings that I participate in as President. OMDC (Okanagan Mainline District Council) Meetings and Labour Council Meetings. Unit meetings, General Meetings, Unit Chair meetings, as well as the Executive meetings. I also try to attend the Shop Steward Meetings when I can for all 5 units. The first Vice President, Kelly Stalker also attends those meetings and I appreciate that I can work closely with the 1st vice. Thank you, Kelly, for all you do. All the meetings that I attend are beneficial. A big part of it is networking with other President's and to be able to work through ideas together. I am also in close contact with the National Reps.

Last shout out of thanks to the entire executive who work and volunteer a lot of their time in their roles on a daily/weekly basis. I appreciate all of you and the work that you do.

As we move through the rest of winter and into spring, I hope you all stay safe, healthy, and warm. Hang in there and if there is anything you need, please reach out to one of the executives or a shop steward in your Unit.

In Solidarity,
Tammy Carter
President
CUPE Local 523

www.523.cupe.ca



NOYFSS

North Okanagan Youth & Family Services Society

Unit Chair—Samantha Symons— email: noyfss@cupe523.com

Onside Restoration donated over 400 pairs of socks to NOYFSS as part of the “Socktember” Project.

From right to left:

Dean Francks,, executive Director
Jaime Royston, Supervisor
Onside Restoration



Christmas Door Decorating

2021 @ NOYFSS

Megan McDonnell
Delma Fehr
Joy Johnson
Craig Pohorelic
Kari Bomstad
Joy Johnson and
Megan McDonnell



Pictures—Facebook



SD53

Happy New Year to all CUPE SD53 Members! I hope your Holiday was Healthy and Bright!

We had our Unit Meeting Dec 4, and the turnout was incredibly low, I want to thank all that attended this meeting Virtually, and hope in the future we have more members attend meetings. We voted on our EI funds, and I am happy to say that I love giving back to our communities. Here is what we voted [on](#) for this coming year:

Retirement Benefits- Add additional \$100 to the Retirement Benefits in addition to Local523 amount (up to \$2000)

Bursary- Add additional \$100 Education Bursary in addition to Local523 amount (up to \$2000)

Day of Morning- up to \$300

Legion (wreaths) - 4 locations up to \$200 total

Food bank 5X\$100 (up to \$500) Osoyoos, Oliver, Cawston, Keremeos, Ok Falls

Volunteer Firefighters \$100 each (up to \$600) Osoyoos, Oliver, Keremeos, OK Falls, Willowbrook, and Anarchist

Search and Rescue \$500 Oliver/Osoyoos

Boys & Girls Club \$400 to be divided amongst locations

Entertainment Unit SD53- \$15,000

Vulnerable Students \$100 per school up to \$800

Dry Grad Donation for 3 Secondary schools divided equally, SOSS, OSS and SESS up to \$1500

Star Fish Back Pack Program - General donations to schools that participate in \$2400

Good and Welfare for Unit meetings: 8 gift cards at 25\$ each up to \$600 total

We also have a few changes from our committees, please check out Website for those details <https://523.cupe.ca/> and any other information can also be located on the website.

<p>Bargaining Open House Meetings Dates:</p> <p>Feb 25 Osoyoos Sonora Centre time 10-12 & 3-5</p> <p>Feb 26 Keremeos Victory Hall Time: 10-12</p> <p>Feb 26 Oliver Rec Center Time: 3-5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This Is a Bargaining Year!</p>	<p>If you have any concerns or anything you would like to see changed in our Collective Agreement, please attend these meetings your Input is important.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I want to hear from you!</p> <p>We may need to change these in person meetings to Virtual due to restrictions, but I will provide that info 1 Week Before! Please look for Info!</p>
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Yours Truly
 Charlene Turnbull
 Local 523 SD53 Unit Chair
 Unit53@cupe523.com



SD 67**Happy New Year from SD 67!**

It's been yet another crazy start to the year thanks to the ever-present pandemic. I hope that things have gone smoothly for you all. I know I speak for all of us when I say I really hope that we are nearing the end of this crazy time and life can start to feel "normal" again!

As a start to our fresh 2022, I am going to take a moment to introduce (or reacquaint you!) with the hard-working Shop Stewards to represent us here in SD 67. These individuals are always here to help you with concerns, complaints, requests, suggestions etc that arise within your jobs. Their contact information can always be found on the CUPE website at www.cupe523.com.

Shawn Melnyk: "I've been an EA for 9 years, 4 of which, have been for SD67. I moved here with my wife, Vanessa, from our hometown of Surrey. I decided to become more involved in our union as a Shop Steward because I want to help our members feel safe, supported, and validated. If there is anything that I can do for you, please get in touch with me and I would be glad to help!"

Roberta Hormes: "I'm in Clerical at Queen's Park Elementary, and I am a Shop Steward for SD 67. I have been with the district since 2007. My previous involvement with CUPE 523 has been as a Shop Steward and then Unit Chair for 2 years. My hobbies include anything horses; Pickleball and knitting."

Pat Styles: "Hi! I have been an EA for 21 years, mostly in middle and high school. I love my job. I have three kids and a 5-month-old granddaughter. I love camping and entertaining. Maybe not at the same time! The best advice I can offer newbies is, relationships, relationships, relationships!"

Matt Ferguson: "I started at SD67 just over three years ago and work out of the IT department focusing on resolving technical issues with a smile with a little bit of friendly sarcasm! As a shop steward, I believe in supporting CUPE members and ensuring that everyone has a voice at work."

Molly Ehmman. "I have been a CEA with District 67 for 5 years. I am part of the union because knowledge is power. There were times in the past working as a CEA that I wish I had known then what I know now. I always try to check in with members and find them answers they might have not even known. I also became a shop steward because Tammy Carter told me I had to and you don't argue with her. In my spare time I like to read and go camping and exploring in the woods with my family. We love going off the beaten path, as long as we can turn our RV around!"

THIS IS A BARGAINING YEAR! As such, we really need to hear from our members about what is on your mind right now regarding the current contract, and any changes you would like to see. Big or little, please let your voice be heard.

THERE WILL BE IN PERSON BARGAINING MEETINGS HELD ON MARCH 6TH, 2022 AT THE PENTICTON LAKESIDE RESORT CONFERENCE ROOM. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE BELOW:

Clerical	10am to 12pm
Maintenance	12pm to 2 pm
Custodial	2pm to 4 pm
CEA's	4pm to 6pm

More information and reminders will follow. Please keep an eye on the Facebook page, as well as your school bulletin boards and personal emails.

Thank you for the hard work you all continue to do on a daily basis. Please know you are all incredibly appreciated. Should you have questions or anything you wish to discuss please email me at any time at unit67@cupe523.com or text or call to 250-488-6968.

Sincerely; Terri Phillips- SD67 Unit Chair

SD83

Thank you to all our school bus drivers for ensuring the safety of our students.

Good News from the SD83 Transportation Department There were only five red-light runners (drivers passing a school bus when the red alternating bus lights are flashing) for the month of January 2022. This compares to 16 red-light runners last year at this time.



This lower number of offences is such a positive step forward in trying to keep our students safe outside the bus,” comments Manager of Transportation Andrea Kathrein.

SD83 Unit Chair:

James Fox

Email: unit83@cupe523.com

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



[CUPE 523](#)

www.523.cupe.ca



Turning Points

Things are happening at Turning Points

Supportive housing soon! Construction is well underway at The Crossings - a twin building to My Place on 35th Street. The Crossings is set to be complete by early Summer and will bring with it 52 additional supportive housing spaces in Vernon.



Some of our staff was able to take a walk through recently to see the progress from the interior. This space is going to be such a wonderful and important addition to the housing needs of Vernon.

We are starting the year off with something amazing !!!

Regional Manager for the Southern Interior Tara Tschritter accepted a \$50,000 donation from the team at Highstreet Ventures in Kelowna. Our plan is to leverage this donation to purchase housing stock in West Kelowna - to ensure a permanent home for some of our most vulnerable folks.



We are honoured that Highstreet chose Turning Points to be a beneficiary of their kindness, and we promise to be careful stewards of this incredible gift. Thank you!

Turning Points Unit Chair:
Roxanne Round – email: tpcs@cupe523.com

BC Retirement Planning

March 2020 marked the last retirement seminar held for CUPE members before COVID hit and shut everything down. During that time a waitlist was created for those interested in participating in the next available retirement seminar.

2nd Vice President Lorie Zachariuk has that list and will be reaching out to those who had their names added to confirm with you to see if still interested. We have had a few new names come forward recently and yes, your name has been added also. As spaces become available members will be contacted.

Unfortunately we have not heard any new information as to when we can expect the seminar to resume, rest assure you will be notified as soon as details come forth.

For anyone who is interested and is within 5 years of retiring you can fill out the retirement seminar application form on our CUPE523 website. <https://523.cupe.ca/resources/forms/>

Please don't hesitate to contact your unit chair or 2nd VP Lorie Zachariuk— 2vp@cupe523.com if you have any questions.

Some facts to know:

This seminar is open to the member and their spouse or significant other.

Wages are covered by both the union and employer (each pays one day)

Complete necessary leave form for your employer indicating "Retirement Seminar" under details.

If hotel accommodations are required this is booked and covered by the union.

Mileage is paid at \$0.59 per kilometer

The cost of meals is covered by the union for the member only (please be sure that you put alcohol on a separate receipt). All receipts submitted must be itemized (debit and credit cards receipts are not acceptable)

**Find CUPE Bylaws, Policy
and Procedures
on our website.**

523.cupe.ca/resources

Click on "Resources"
"Local Bylaws"
"Policies"



Individual Unit Bargaining Information Meeting with Members:

(see individual Notice of Meetings that were emailed out or posted on our Facebook page for more details)

TPCS: January 31st—Held

NOYFSS: Saturday Feb. 12th

SD83: Sat. Feb. 12th

SD67: Sunday March 6th

SD53: Friday Feb. 25th and Saturday Feb. 26th

Upcoming General Meetings

All members are encouraged to attend!

March 5th 2022	Election Meeting	Teams
May 28 2022	General Meeting	Teams/Penticton

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.*

Local 523 Union Office
Mailing Address:
 #1— 416 Westminster Ave.
 Penticton, BC V2A 1K5

www.523.cupe.ca

