



CUPE LOCAL 5523 (VERNON)
K-12 SUPPORT STAFF
UNIT 206 – 2411 HWY #6
BOX 806 VERNON, BC V1T 6M7

Welcome Back,

We started off our new school year with our general meeting at VSS on September 14, followed by our “Welcome Back BQ” at Kin Beach. The numbers attending was slightly down, likely due to the weather but it appeared all enjoyed the conversation and meal supplied by the Local. Lucky prize draw winners were children - Isaac Carson (\$50 gift certificates for Veron Teach & Learn & Cineplex Theatre), adult - Janine Dyck (\$50 gift certificates for Boston Pizza & Cineplex Theatre). Thank you to everyone that took the time to come out and the Executive and Social Committee that participated in hosting this event.

As we head into the 24 / 25 school year, I want to connect with everyone regarding how important the coming year is going to be.

Starting off with the upcoming Provincial election October 19. Attached with this email is a letter “Pledge to vote with workers” sponsored by CUPE BC. Scan the QR code and review the information for voting along with signing up to pledge to vote. This election is critical for us and our vote for a progressive, labour friendly government that cares about our communities and workers. While the NDP government has not been able to solve many issues that concern all of us, they are working hard to achieve this and make lives better for us in our communities. The NDP is a Party that will open the door and allow us to discuss our concerns. Positive changes have happened in the BC Employment Standards Act (5 – day sick leave), WorkSafe BC Regulations, childcare funding and others. These are just a few that support the everyday workers and provide safety and financial support. In K – 12 we sent a delegation of EAS, including Karen Ranelatta (CUPE BC President) from the Lower Mainland to Victoria to sit down with MLAS’ and discuss the very issues our EAS deal with daily throughout our province. They listened and are aware and recently Premier Dave Ebby acknowledged the challenges EAS face when he was speaking publicly. We are in a bargaining year for our contract and the next Provincial Government will be critical. We cannot go backwards on Education funding or Collective Agreements. Your vote matters and I hope it is for the NDP, the only progressive party that supports workers and public education.

Advanced voting takes place October 10 – 13 and 15 – 16, election October 19.

Vernon – Monashee riding NDP candidate is **Harwinder Sandhu**

Coldstream/ Lake Country/ Kelowna riding candidate is **Anna Warwick Sears**

Over the next couple of months, we will have CUPE 5523 members communicating to you regarding a campaign called **“Better Support, Safer Schools” - Ending violence against school support staff**. This campaign will also include a QR code to scan and sign a supporting letter that will be sent to the next Minister of Education and Childcare. Our goal is to have 25,000 of the 30,000 BC CUPE employees in education sign this and it will be presented to the Minister and during our round of Provincial bargaining to support our demands for financial commitment needed to support safer schools. Please take a few minutes of your time when approached to sign this letter. This request is for all members as the funding is critical for us to address this serious issue.

This year is a bargaining year as our Collective Agreement expires on June 30, 2025. I am fortunate to be on the Provincial K – 12 bargaining committee where I will have some insight as to how bargaining will go locally as the “Provincial Framework Agreement” is negotiated first before Local bargaining begins. At the provincial level, wages and extra funding for locals are negotiated along with other areas identified in the PFA. For bargaining committees to be successful in drawing up proposals we will be sending out both a local survey and K – 12 provincial survey in the coming months. Please take the time to participate by completing these surveys. Your comments matter and help to draw our attention to key issues.

Your participation in voting, signing letters and completing surveys will make us stronger and more informed as a local as we proceed with the many challenging issues this year.

Important upcoming dates:

- Provincial Election October 19
- General Meeting November 16 @ VSS 9am
- Christmas Dinner & Dance November 23 Vernon Lodge

P.S. The position of Secretary – Treasurer CUPE 5523 Executive will be vacant at our elections in January as Madelaine Work is not putting her name forward for the next 2-year

term. If you have an interest in this position, please reach out to Madelaine prior to obtain a better understanding of the duties.

In Solidarity,

Gray Boisvert – CUPE 5523 President