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Caring for B.C. students and public schools



## Wrapping up the school year

### Employer questions on vaccination

While the provincial immunization plan moves forward throughout the summer, we are asking all K-12 members to contact your CUPE local if your employer asks about your immunization status. If you are asked by your employer about whether you've been vaccinated, or if they ask for any other information regarding immunization, please contact your local who will contact your National Servicing Representative as soon as possible.

### Daytime Custodial Services

This past week CUPE welcomed the BC government's announcement of \$14.4 million in funding to support cleaning and supplies for the 2021/22 school year. While this is a step forward in helping make daytime custodial services a permanent part of the BC education system, more support is needed to continue this vital health and safety measure.

CUPE will be working over the summer to raise the profile of these vital services, the workers that provide them, and the many benefits they provide to our communities. In early August, CUPE will be holding a communications training webinar for local presidents and unit chairs to help them in sharing these messages with communities and the news media. More information on this webinar will be coming in future updates.

### Health & Safety Toolkit on Violence in the Workplace

Looking ahead to the fall, CUPE and BCPSEA will be hosting a meeting in September to unveil the new K-12 Health and Safety Toolkit. Panelists Tom McKenna, CUPE Occupational Health & Safety specialist, and Hans Loeffelholz, BCPSEA sector lead for OH&S, will provide an overview of the new toolkit and answer any questions on its use in the workplace. Save the date for the meeting on September 23, 2021. [- CLICK here for registration information.](#)

### ARC Summit

In May, the ARC Foundation ran the first ever Regional SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) Summits. A summit report has been released highlighting discussions of SOGI inclusive educators, 2SLGBTQ+ students, and allies, who shared their challenges and experiences. [- CLICK here for the Summit Summary Report.](#)

### National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

We recognize awareness is a journey that we all must take to honour and fulfill the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#). Please take the time to discuss the [Calls to Action](#) and the truths contained in the TRC report. The complete TRC report is available online from the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#).

[CUPE's Walking the talk: A practical guide to reconciliation for CUPE locals](#) is also available online with more helpful information. Please share these important resources with your membership so we can all do our part in reconciliation and to support Indigenous communities on their path to healing through these difficult times.

This week, a new federal statutory holiday was established recognizing September 30<sup>th</sup> as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, in honour of residential school survivors. As it is a federal statutory holiday, it only applies to federally regulated sectors (such as airlines).

Some CUPE collective agreements, however, do have provisions recognizing new statutory holidays, whether they are municipal, provincial, or federal. And there may be other ramifications in collective agreements. CUPE is encouraging all locals to review their collective agreement language on statutory holidays.

### THANK YOU on behalf of the Presidents Council Exec. and your K-12 Co-ordinators

**We'd like to thank you all for your outstanding work and dedication throughout the pandemic – in your workplaces, in our communities and in our union. Your tireless efforts, support and solidarity throughout a challenging school year are to be commended.**

**We will remain vigilant over the summer months to ensure our workplaces remain healthy and safe and wish you all a safe summer.**

[Click here for Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside's message thanking school staff](#)