



THE CUPE “QUARTERLY”

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our 10-Month members and hope that you were all able to take some much-deserved time away from your sites and enjoy some R&R with family and friends this summer. As for our 12-month members we know many of you worked hard during July and August, in some unbearable conditions, in order to get the schools ready for students on September 7th and for that we are most grateful for your efforts and hope that you are able to take some well-earned vacation time this fall.

With the 2021-2022 school year now underway, your Union Executive has been receiving inquiries that we feel need answering.....

“Do I have to answer personal questions?”

Members want to know if they are required to divulge their vaccination, or any other medical history if asked, and the answer to that is absolutely, unequivocally “NO”! At no time is any worker required to divulge their medical information to anyone employed by School District No.33 (Chilliwack), or their agents. If you are being asked to divulge private medical information the Union is advising members to refrain from answering such questions until consulting with an Elected Union representative. It is important to remember that just because a question is being asked of you, it does not mean you are required to answer it.

“Can anyone be a CUPE Rep?”

Members need to know that Supervisors, Managers, or Employer Representatives are not permitted to appoint our members to represent CUPE in any capacity in this District. Shoulder taps, or behind closed door conversations are a gross abuse of authority and will not be tolerated. Any of the Joint Committees, such as Health and Safety, that require Union Representation are all overseen by CUPE. Should a vacancy appear on a committee then one of the elected CUPE Representatives will reach out to members at the site with an expression of interest and if multiple members would like to have their names stand for the position, then we will conduct an election based on our Union practices/principles.

“Are there still COVID protocols in place?”

Despite protocols loosening for the public this summer, nothing changed for those of us in K-12. While a few minor changes have been made to the COVID Protocols for the 2021-2022 school year we are still required to adhere to a number of practices. Therefore, the Union would encourage all members to familiarize themselves with both the District’s Covid protocols as well as any site-specific ones that may have been implemented in order to avoid termination or disciplinary action.

We are well aware that this “New Normal” is not bringing out the best in people, so we want to encourage our members to rise above the adversity and negativity that is being projected upon us and to allow your professionalism and integrity to shine through in all that you do. Wishing you all the best on the year ahead.....

In Solidarity,
CUPE 411 Executive

