



JUNE 2024 EDITION

THE CUPE "QUARTERLY"

It feels like it was just yesterday that we were welcoming everyone to the start of another school year and here we are at the end of it; you know it's been busy when time flies. As our 10-month members embark on a well-deserved break we hope you find the time to focus on the things you love, and for our 12-month members you now have the time to tackle some of those projects without interruption and perhaps even sneak in some vacation time.

It would be wonderful if we could put out newsletters full of feel-good stories and positive sentiments in relation to the work we do as K-12 support staff here in School District 33 (Chilliwack), unfortunately they have been so few and far between we were only able to come up with enough for one newsletter, so we saved the best for last.....

The first being our Health & Wellness Fund, we are very pleased to see eligible members take advantage of their one-time, \$320 allocation to purchase items that contribute to their overall health and wellness. There have been so many paddle board and kayak purchases that we are thinking perhaps a member engagement event at the lake might be fitting; so, stay tuned. It is also great to see members commitment to their own fitness through gym membership purchases, as well as those that have a creative side; where arts, crafts, and even music or gardening is how they are able to find their peace of mind. In a world where there is often so much chaos and noise all around us, being able to engage in peaceful pursuits that feed your mind, body and soul is truly a gift that we are so pleased to have been able to give you.

We are also pleased to be able to report out that through ongoing efforts the Union and the Employer were able to land in a good place when it came to the creation of new positions related to Early Learning and Child Care, instead of having another year of Temporary positions, the bulk of those positions have all been posted as permanent, and we hope that in doing this it has allowed many of our marginalized members to pick up additional hours of work so that their overall wages would now be considered livable.

We hope that members will start to take advantage of the [Skills, Training, and Enhancement Fund](#) as these monies were negotiated two rounds ago and have been minimally accessed over the past five years, or we see the same members applying year after year. It would be great to see more of our members submitting applications for reimbursement of their educational expenses, being a lifelong learner not only enriches ones mind, but can open doors and bring opportunities that one might never have expected, so please take some time to review the criteria and if you think that you could fit some on-line or evening classes into your life, we would love to be able to help support you in this.

Our mentoring program is in its second year, and the participants continue to excel in the experience. The Union and the Employer see huge potential for everyone involved to become better versions of themselves by learning from one another. More information for the 2025 program will be going out in the fall, so if you are a long-time employee that would like share you knowledge and expertise with another member, or if you are a new to K-12 and open to learning from those with years of experience then please be sure to complete either the Mentor or the Mentee applications forms when they are published.

CUPE Professional Development continues to be another positive way to bring our members together where they can engage on a variety of subjects and expand their skill sets in areas that they are currently working in or throw caution to the wind and try something completely different, as we are never too old to learn new things. If there are topics of discussion or workshop ideas that you would like us to consider then please send them via email at unionoffice@cupe411.ca as the committee will be meeting in the fall to plan for 2025 and its important to us that we are providing a wide variety of session that are both interesting and engaging, as well as interactive and enjoyable.

We were so very pleased to have been able to offer our CUPE bursaries to our members' children that graduated this year and plan on pursuing post-secondary education. Chilliwack Secondary and GW Graham Secondary each had two recipients, while Kwiyeqel Secondary had one, there were no graduates eligible at Imagine, but Sardis Secondary had five in total. Each recipient received a \$1,000 bursary to help them along their educational journey, we hope it serves them well and that as parents and members you feel good about the paths they have chosen and that your working for the Union has helped move them a little closer to their goals.

Lastly, CUPE 411 will again be setting up our tent at the 2024 Chilliwack Pride Festival. This years event will be taking place on July 21st details can be found on the [Chilliwack Pride website](#) and we are always looking for members to volunteer to help us at these community events, so if you would like to lend a hand please email us at unionoffice@cupe411.ca and we will follow up with details.

In Solidarity,

CUPE 411 Executive

