

JANUARY
2024

THE MEMBERS' VOICE



THE NEWSLETTER OF LOCAL 15, VANCOUVER MUNICIPAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORKERS



Nomadesc
 Association for
 Research and
 Social Action

At the CUPE National Convention in Quebec City, Local 15 President Warren Williams attended a demonstration in support of the public sector workers with Berenice Celeita (in black jacket) and Nadia Revelo (in green). Berenice is a Human Rights defender in Colombia and President and founding member of Nomadesc, Association for Research and Social Action. Nadia works with CoDevelopment Canada as Director of the Human and Labour Rights Program.

CoDev, Nomadesc, and CUPE Global Social Justice are partners in supporting working people in Colombia. Check out Nomadesc.com for more information on the organization. You will see a button to translate the site from Spanish to English.

JANUARY 2024 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The General Membership Meeting will be held on **January 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** using the Zoom platform. You will be sent an invitation by email if the union office has a personal email address on file for you. Details will also be posted at www.cupe15.org. If you do not receive emails from the union office and would like to attend this meeting, please call us at 604-879-4671 or email us at email@cupe15.org to update your information. There will be a draw at the end of the meeting and three lucky winners will receive a gift card (retailers TBA at meeting). Child and dependant care reimbursement is available as per eligibility requirements in Local 15 Bylaw Section 31.

JAN. 24, 2024
5:30 p.m. via Zoom invite

- UNDER DISCUSSION:**
- Funding Request – Downtown Eastside Resource Brochure
 - Election of Delegates to the 2024 CUPE BC Convention
 - Committee and Staff Reports

WE ACKNOWLEDGE...

We live, work and play on the unceded land of the Coast Salish peoples—Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) Nations.

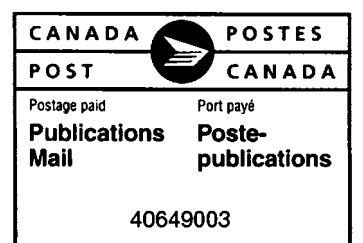


IMPORTANT NOTE

Virtual General Membership Meeting Invitations

After registering for the Virtual General Membership meeting, please do not share your link with fellow members. If they did not receive the invitation and would like to attend, please ask them to contact the union office and provide us with their contact information directly. Once this is done, an invitation will be sent to them and they can register to receive their own link. This is important to facilitate accurate attendance records.

Return undeliverable
 Canadian addresses to:
 CUPE Local 15
 545 W. 10th Ave.
 Vancouver, BC
 V5Z 1K9



Happy New Year!

by Warren Williams, President



WARREN WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I wish you and yours all the best in 2024.

I am looking forward to the year ahead. Your Executive and I have committed to continuing

our site visits across all of our sectors. We visited many worksites in 2023 and want to

build on those connections and make new ones. Meeting our members, learning about their valuable work, and touring the various worksites is a real pleasure. When I review and reflect on the last year, I have to be thankful for our amazing staff, our Executive and Society Boards, and our continued member involvement in our union.

CUPE Local 15 stewards across all sectors have been invaluable in supporting our members, but they could use your help in this work. We need more members to become shop stewards or site contacts. Without the work of stewards and site contacts, we have no eyes or ears on the ground, which makes it difficult to advocate on your behalf.

If you are interested in becoming an advocate for your colleagues and defending your collective agreement rights, please contact the union office at email@cupe15.org. The union provides ongoing education, so you are comfortable and effective in these roles.

Thank you for your support and I hope 2024 is just the beginning of great things to come for you and yours.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

by Debbie Mohabir, Secretary-Treasurer



DEBBIE MOHABIR
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Hello, everyone!

Happy New Year CUPE Local 15 Members!

Welcome to 2024! I hope you all were able to take some time during the holidays to spend time with family and friends. As we enter each new

month, and now a new year, I keep asking myself the same question. Where did the time go? November and December were a blur as they were busy months for the local. As I reflect on 2023 and its trials and tribulations, I am

looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings for the local and members.

CUPE National Convention

Delegates who were elected to attend the CUPE National Convention from October 23-27, 2023 spent the week listening to speakers, speaking to resolutions, voting on resolutions, and attending various caucuses and events. It was a very busy week.

There were resolutions that were passed and few that were defeated after some spicy debate! Unfortunately, once again, the diversity seat resolution was defeated. This was very disappointing for many because the National Executive Board doesn't seem to reflect what the Provincial Division Executive Boards look like. I'm sure the fight to change this will continue at the next National Convention.

During this time, over 400,000 public sector workers of the Common Front (representing health, social services, and education) voted to strike. Convention delegates rallied in front of

the Parliament building to show their support; that's over 2,000 CUPE members standing up to their government for fellow union workers!

United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner

On November 30th, members of the Executive Board attended this annual event. Many labour activists came together to connect, share some laughs, and honour four award recipients. Overall it was a great evening and we look forward to attending again next year! Congratulations to the winners.

Children's Winter Event

We hope those who attended this wonderful event on December 9th enjoyed it. Unfortunately, the weather was not the best, but thankfully most of the activities were inside and the hot chocolate with candy canes kept everyone warm for a little while! Thank you to the social committee for all of your work and a very big thank you to our CUPE Local 15 members who work at Hastings Community Centre for all of your help to make ticket pick-up easy for everyone.



CUPE National Convention



Our Social Committee



Election of Delegates to the CUPE BC Convention

The 2024 CUPE BC Convention will be held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, continuing through until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Delegate elections will be held at the Virtual General Membership Meeting on January 24, 2024. In order to be eligible to stand as a CUPE Local 15 delegate, a member must have attended a minimum of 50% of the General Membership meetings in the last 12 months.

VMRRA Seeking Volunteers

submitted by Elizabeth McGee, VMRRA President

The Vancouver Municipal and Regional Retirees' Association (VMRRA) is your retiree association, and we need volunteers.

Many of our members are from a time when electronic media that is now so much a part of people's lives was not as prevalent as it is now, and we find that we lack the skills to ensure that folks are aware and able to access.

We hold five membership meetings a year, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of February, April, June, October,

and November at the Bonsor Recreation Facility located in Burnaby (close to Metrotown).

We would like to establish a hybrid meeting, but need a volunteer to assist with this work. We are also in need of a volunteer to maintain the website by posting the newsletter, and the agendas and minutes of our five meetings.

If there is anyone who is interested in planning events for seniors, we would be very excited to hear from you. We host four socials a year and having someone take charge of these events would be wonderful.

If you are interested in helping with any of these positions, or in any other way, please be in touch with the union office who will forward your contact information, or email me directly at elizabethmcgee@shaw.ca.

Notices of Motion

- The Executive recommends a donation of \$3,000 to assist in funding the printing of an updated edition of the Downtown Eastside Resource Brochure.

Explanation - The Newsletter Group at the Carnegie Centre has published 56 editions of this brochure since 1991 and must raise funds each time. These booklets are delivered throughout the Downtown Eastside; various places downtown and on Commercial Drive; hospitals and clinics in the Broadway Corridor; and to some colleges.

Mission and Vision Statements

The Mission and Vision statements discussed and drafted at the 2022 Think Tank were approved by the Executive Board at their meeting on November 21, 2023 as follows:

Mission Statement – Serving our members' interests by advancing and defending their rights and the rights of all workers.

Vision Statement – A union founded on respect and advocacy that instills pride and a sense of belonging for the benefit of all.

VSB Job Share Opportunities

- Job share partner** wanted starting January 2024 on Thursdays and Fridays at David Lloyd George Elementary. If you are interested, please contact Veronika at vsubarko@yahoo.com.
- SSA** looking for a job share partner to work at John Norquay Elementary on Thursdays and Fridays beginning September 2024 for the 2024/2025 school year. Please contact Sheila at sheilafarrales3@gmail.com if you are interested.
- OSC (Office Admin Assistant)** looking for a job share partner for two days a week at Dr. George M. Weir Elementary starting September 2024 for the 2024/2025 school year. If you are interested, please contact Svetlana at svetlanaivezic@hotmail.com.

DECISIONS

BY THE EXECUTIVE

At the Executive and Society Board meetings on November 21 and December 19, 2023, the following decisions were made:

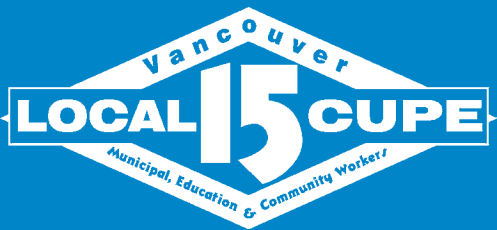
- To overturn the decision of the Grievance Committee and forward a grievance in the City et al Sector to arbitration.
- To recommend the 2024 draft CUPE Local 15 budget, VMECW Society budget, and VMECW Society Capital budget to the members.
- To appoint Colin Peterson as the Primary OH&S Representative for Evans Yard on the Joint Stores OH&S Committee.
- To appoint Soheib Ghrebi as the Primary OH&S Representative for Manitoba Yard on the Joint Stores OH&S Committee.
- To approve six applications for 2024 CLC Winter School as per the recommendation from the Union Education Committee.
- To recommend a \$3,000 donation to assist in funding the printing of an updated edition of the Downtown Eastside Resource Brochure to the members. (See Notice of Motion column one on this page.)
- To approve the Mission and Vision Statements from the 2022 Local 15 Think Tank (printed elsewhere in this issue).
- To amend Policy 3.1.5(2) by increasing mobile phone reimbursement for officers from \$60 to \$70.
- To receive the Financial Statements ending September 30 and October 31, 2023.
- To donate \$200 to the Vancouver Municipal Regional Retirees' Association Christmas Luncheon.
- To donate \$1,000 to the 28th Annual Labour Community Holiday event.
- To approve the recommendation of the Staff Advisory Committee regarding staffing in the office.

BY THE MEMBERS

At the General Membership and General Society meetings on November 22, 2023 the members in attendance made the following decisions:

- To approve the 2024 draft CUPE Local 15 budget, VMECW Society budget, and VMECW Society Capital budget as presented.
- To destroy the ballots from the City et al Ratification of Agreement Meeting.
- To destroy the ballots from the Emily Carr University Ratification of Agreement Meeting.
- To approve the Financial Statements ending October 31, 2023.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON JANUARY 24TH via Zoom



The Members' Voice is published nine times a year for members of CUPE Local 15 - Vancouver Municipal, Education and Community Workers. The deadline for submissions is 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. All submissions may be edited for brevity and clarity. Signed articles and letters do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of CUPE Local 15.

CUPE Local 15

545 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1K9
Phone: 604-879-4671
Fax: 604-879-7582
Email: email@cupe15.org
Web: www.cupe15.org

Local 15 is a chartered affiliate of the Canadian Union of Public Employees and is also affiliated with the CUPE British Columbia Division, CUPE Metro District Council, the Vancouver & District Labour Council, and the BC Federation of Labour. CUPE 15 is a member of the Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM).

CUPE Local 15 Executive Board Table Officers:

President: Warren Williams
Secretary-Treasurer: Debbie Mohabir
1st Vice President: Santino Scardillo
2nd Vice President: Ravina Lal

Sector Representatives:

City: Aaron Cook, Paul Chohan
College/University: Sophie Bennett, Rose Palozzi
Cultural: Courtney Gillen
Health/HSSCBA: Roxshanna Shankar
Health/HSPBA: Lucia Rincon
Parks: Bernie Dionne, Henry Lee
K-12: Chris Brown, Cynthia Schadt

Trustees:

Seagrin Worster, John Kaptein, Vanessa Mani

Staff Representatives:

Kathie Currie, John Geppert, Steve Salsman, Gail Johnson, Joy Tullos,

Office & Administrative Staff:

Mark Gloumeau, Accounting Coordinator
Nancy Strider, Accounting Assistant
Tia Tang, Office Manager
Michelle Yim, Office Assistant

Building Service Worker:

Elaine Duan

CUPE National Representatives:

Sung Wong, Michael Reed

CITY ET AL RATIFICATION



Members in the City et al Sector attend the Ratification of Agreement Information Meeting and Vote at the Maritime Labour Centre on November 17, 2023.



By Kiran Johal, Sashi Lehman, and Sarbrinder Mand

We are members of CUPE 15 – Langara College food service workers. When Langara students and staff need a snack, a hot meal, or a cup of coffee, they can count on us.

We are currently coordinating a busy pre-bargaining campaign as we prepare to negotiate our next contract with Chartwells, the company that operates Langara food services. Chartwells is a division of the Compass Group, a multinational corporation that makes billions in profits worldwide. Meanwhile, our members are some of the lowest-paid workers on campus. Many of us are still making minimum wage, even if we've been at Langara for many years.

As we all know, the cost-of-living in Metro Vancouver is soaring, making it extremely difficult for workers and their families to live and thrive in the very communities we serve. When families don't make a living wage, they



face impossible choices: buy food or heat the house, fill a prescription, or pay the rent.

We are calling on Chartwells and Langara to commit to a living wage, at a minimum. By doing so, they can ensure the wages they pay reflect the true costs of living where we work. This lifts workers and families out of poverty and benefits everyone in our communities.

We serve Langara and we deserve better.

**Please support us at:
weservelangara.ca**