



Members Update for December 10th, 2021

Christmas Break – One week to go until we get a bit of peace and quiet and can focus on some tasks that we don't have the time for during the instructional days!

Holiday Travels – (leaving this on from last week) There's been quite a few questions about what rules have to be followed about travelling over the break. Things are changing almost daily with travel restrictions and guidelines from the Federal government with a new Covid variant surfacing recently. If you are taking time off and traveling during the break, the HWDSB will require you to be ready to work when school resumes and it's up to you to know the guidelines about traveling to your destination and the conditions of isolating or quarantining upon your return. Our suggestion is to be in contact with your travel agent and keep an eye on the Federal guidelines by following [this link](#). I already know of a few members who have had to cancel their travel plans due to recent changes so please be aware of the situation.

EasyConnect – Mark Lachowicz, Geoff Thompson and myself had a meeting with the employer about ongoing concerns with the so called "Easy"Connect system on Monday. We discussed a few of the major issues that members are facing such as 4/6 hour permanent positions not being able to access the system to arrange their own top up hours as well as the delay in setting up daytime "floaters" to access the system for daytime coverages. There seems to be some confusion as to whether the delays in getting these items in place and operational are from EasyConnect or the employer but we were assured that a timeline would be supplied to us for when they would be accessible by our members. In addition to those items, we again proposed that the system be put on the shelf until it can function properly but that request went about as far as a bird flying against the wind with no wings. Needless to say, the introduction of this software to replace a scheduling supervisor has been a train wreck for months now and I'm not confident that it will ever function the way it was advertised.

OSBCU Conference Update - Patrick Cumbo, Pat Amatangelo and myself attended the OSBCU Leadership Conference last weekend from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. This was the first in person conference that CUPE Ontario has hosted since March of 2020 and it was done very well. We discussed Central Bargaining issues, member mobilization issues and the general feel of CUPE Education Workers across Ontario. We will have information to share with you about bargaining priorities, possible bargaining dates and more, but I'll hold off on that until January when we don't have the holiday season, family commitments and possible travel plans on our minds. Spoiler alert – the main objective in Central Bargaining next year will be wages. That was loud and clear from the over 16,000 surveys done by members earlier this year and submitted to the OSBCU.

Food Drive Donations – Today is the last day to get your food donations in. One of the local reps (steward or Executive) will be by your school either this afternoon or sometime on Monday to collect your donations and bring them to the office. From there, we will arrange a time to get them over to the Good Shepherd donation center on behalf of the Local. I want to thank everyone for helping out and showing our community just what we're capable of doing when we all work together. Once we have all the donations collected, I'll try to remember to post pics of all the boxes collected and dropping them off at the Good Shepherd. You'll be able to see the pics on our Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/cupe4153> as well as our website – www.cupe4153.ca

We Need Mobilizers – As we move closer to the provincial election and our contract expiring August 31st, we need a few people to help out with mobilizing our members. We need a few people who enjoy talking to people, are interested in moving our local ahead and want to make some changes that will continue on past the end of our contract. If this interests you – please get in touch with our office at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca and we'll make sure you're hooked up! We will have a team of mobilizers, so nobody will be working on their own and you'll have the resources and time to get stuff done!

Afternoon Issues – Due to the change in supervision on afternoons – for ANY issues after 2pm, please contact the on call supervisor as per Bob's email from a couple weeks ago. You can reach the on call supervisor by calling **Answer Plus at 905-667-3079**. Answer Plus will take your message and relay it to the supervisor who will call you back at the phone number you provide.

It's Grey Cup weekend here in Hamilton. My mom and her dog will be dressed in black and gold and yelling at the TV for sure - getting around town might be a bit slower than usual so be safe and GO CATS GO!!!! Let's win this one for Angelo Mosca! I want to give a shout out to our members at Prince Of Wales who will be busy all weekend making sure that certain parts of the Grey Cup festivities that are being staged and prepared for at the school run smoothly.

Cheers,

Blake