



CUPE 4153 Update

December 6th, 2024

Holiday Food Donations.....

I hope that we have a good number of boxes starting to fill up at schools around the city to help out our less fortunate members over the holidays. I've been thinking about this quite a bit lately and maybe it's just me getting older, maybe it's the peace loving hippie in me coming out more and more - who knows. What I do know is that we have a great opportunity to show our own co-workers and others that we look after our own. We may not always agree on things, we may not always make the right choices, we may not always say the right things - but we can look after our own because they are our members.

I look at this as a first step in providing resources and access to services for members in need. We need to do better than we have been. We should have food available to members when they are in times of need for whatever reason. We should have a healthy list of provincial, city and even union services for members in need - whether it's family counseling issues, helping members get agencies involved for domestic violence or fighting to keep custody of their kids. It's one thing to say we care about our members and it's another thing to back that up and show it in real ways. This food drive is hopefully just the start of something that I think could be a huge benefit to any of our members - young, old or older that finds themselves not sure of how to navigate a family crisis event or just going through a rough patch for a while.

Doesn't matter if you go pick up a bulk box of pasta at Costco or a couple packages of Mr. Noodles at the dollar store - putting a donation in the box is helping. We've got a week left until the boxes are collected and remember - the best decorated and fullest box will win a prize for each posted position at their school. That's our way of saying Thank You for helping us look after our own family.

Food Donation Box Suggestions

We have members that struggle each and every day with food insecurity, trying to balance bills and expenses, covering rent and a host of other financial issues. We want to help them in a very real and tangible way this holiday season by blessing them with the easiest thing we can do - providing them some added or maybe the only food they will get over the holidays. Each of us is in a different place with family and finances and I know not everyone will be able to donate and help out but if you can - it is very much appreciated.

If you want to know what the most requested items by food banks are for suggestions while you're out and can pick up a few extra cans or items - here's a list for you.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beans (lentils, chick peas, kidney beans, etc.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasta sauce |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canned fruit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canned fish (tuna in water) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canned soup | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% fruit juices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canned vegetables (tomatoes, corn, peas etc.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oatmeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baby food |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canned stew, chili, etc. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baby formula |



For Members In Need of Help

If any of our members and their immediate families is in need of food items over the holidays, please contact Janna in the office or myself by email. Once we collect the food from the schools it will be sorted and arranged at the office to make it ready to go to a good home. **This process will be absolutely confidential and private. Only Janna and myself will know who's getting the donations and it won't go any further than that.** Pickups or deliveries will be arranged after the sorting is all done. Our goal is to help and support any members in need. You can reach Janna at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca or you can reach me at 4153president@gmail.com

Kids Christmas Party

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Social Committee for the work they have put into the Kids Party coming up this weekend. From arranging food, decorations, entertainment and more - to setting aside a couple hours on a weekend night to gather everyone together and have a wrapping party for all the gifts that were bought for the kids attending. It's no small feat in itself and I'm aware of some of the negative comments on social media about how things have gone and I just want to go on record as saying these members have stepped up, come up with ideas, put things out to our members and been slammed for lack of involvement by people who can't be bothered to show up for anything. So to Laurie Penner, Kristin Cox, Sarah Graves, Shawna Charland and Jenn Matthews - on behalf of the Executive thank you for supporting our members!

Feel Like Winning Some Green?

Please be sure to check out the attached monthly contest from OTIP to win \$1,000 this month. OTIP has been a great partner with us over the past few years and we're happy to partner with them and happy when members sign up with them and save themselves money on insurance. I know I've said it before but changing my car and home insurance over to OTIP a few years ago saved me \$800+ the first year over increases my long time insurance company told me I had to pay. Check out the flyer attached with this email, get in on your chance to win \$1,000 and maybe check out their insurance rates - they only deal with education folks like us so they understand us pretty good!

Unwanted Visitors

With colder weather now upon us, some schools in some areas will have an increase in unhoused people looking for places to sleep overnight and sometimes with warm exhaust coming from our schools, they end up on our properties.

Anyone that is asked to “go and deal with a nuisance person outside on the property” by administration or maybe even your supervisor - the answer is NO. I get that some of us have a different comfort level when dealing with anxious or stressful situations but I never want to get a call that one of our members has been seriously hurt at work. There are more and more encampments and victims of substance abuse and trauma in all areas of the city than ever before and I don't think it's going to get any better anytime soon. And no, this isn't a commentary on governments and how it's being handled - it's a commentary on how WE handle it when we're at work. **You call the police non emergency line at 905-546-4925 and let them know you're at a school and you have someone on the property that isn't welcome there and why (open drug use, behavior issues, etc) and let them handle it.**

Unwanted Fruitcake

In these uncertain holiday times, it's always important to remember that fruitcake is often talked down about, made fun of and tossed away by mid January. If you know of a fruitcake that's been neglected or abandoned, just know that my office is a safe place for all fruitcake. Dark, light, without or without marzipan. Just drop off your fruitcake and there will be no questions asked and I promise you they will find their purpose and destiny very soon.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Cheers,
Blake



Wouldn't it be GRAND? Enter to win our monthly prize of \$1,000 cash and the grand prize of \$3,000! Enter now: <https://bit.ly/4eHTRC0> #OTIPUpdate