

CUPE 4153 Update

June 11th, 2025

Elections

Next Thursday we'll be having online elections for vacant union positions. An email to all members with an email on file with the office (see below) will be sent out by the voting system at 8am on June 19th. Included in that email will be a link to follow for members to vote and support their candidates to fill vacant positions. These are the people who advocate, support and negotiate for all of us in the Local, so your voice and vote are very important!

For anyone not wanting to read the job descriptions of the elected positions before voting for someone - here's the Coles Notes version (if you're old enough to remember what that is.....)

2nd VP - fills in for President if the President and 1st VP are away. Acts as a go between from the Executive to the Health & Safety Committee.

Chief Steward - is responsible for holding the employer accountable over Collective Agreement issues - investigations of members, grievances and disciplines.

Steward - responsible for supporting, advocating for and interacting with members, answering questions about workplace issues and the Collective Agreement

Negotiation Committee - responsible for working with members to develop proposals and negotiating with the employer about terms in our Collective Agreement for our members benefit

Candidates

2nd Vice President - Chris Cosby, Jennifer Stokes

Chief Steward - Chris Cosby, Laurie Penner

3 Year Trustee - Shelley Livingston (acclaimed, no election needed)

Steward - Stephen Clarkin, Glenn Paul

Negotiation Committee (5 members needed) - Pat Amatangelo, Jason Atkinson, Ivo Biancucci, Deshawna Charland, Chris Cosby, Kristin Cox, Marilyn MacAloney, John Moning, Laurie Penner, Jennifer Stokes, Doug Thornberry

Local Communications

When there's info to send out to our members - the easiest and quickest way is by email. Please make sure that the office and our wonderful administrator Janna have your personal info on file for communication purposes. This would include your personal (not HWDSB) email address, phone number, home address. This helps us organize and especially with our upcoming contract negotiations - we'll be able to keep everybody up to date and informed on what's going on. We're not going to chase you but if you want to be able to vote in online elections, receive these updates and get any bargaining information - please send an email to Janna at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca and give her your info.

Food Drive - PD Day

For everyone that's signed up and attending our PD Day on July 4th at Sherwood - we're asking that you bring a canned good or other non-perishable donation to help stock our food closet. We have members almost every week that visit the food pantry to help with their families food insecurity. Please remember - everyone is in a different situation. Just because we all make the same wages for our jobs - doesn't mean some of us aren't struggling. There's no judgement, no hassles and all smiles from Janna or myself as we're happy to see food going out of the closet and being used for exactly the purpose it was donated for. We'll have a table set up to drop donations off when you arrive for PD Day to make the process as smooth as possible for everyone. I will touch base with Janna next week to see what items are needed and let you know.

Yes, That's a Thing....

With permanent members booking summer vacations and supervisors making schedules of who's working what shifts and who's covering what - the question has come up many times already "My supervisor says I can't take Mondays and Fridays off all summer - what's up with that?!" We have language in our collective agreement that states the following:

Article 20.03 (a) (i) - such request is made in writing at least three weeks prior to the requested vacation indicating the start and end dates of the vacation period - translation - holidays must be requested at least 3 weeks in advance through the web portal. Inside of 3 weeks, any vacation request needs to be approved by Bob Avery as an emergency use of vacation.

Article 20.03 (d) - Vacations will normally be taken in at least one week allotments. Where the obligations of the board permit, with prior approval of the Board, employees may be allowed up to a maximum of one week (5 days) of vacation in single days or in allotment of less than one week. Translation - you can only take 5 single days of vacation - so you could do 5 Fridays over the summer or 5 Mondays or a combination of both.

If you book vacation from Monday to the following Wednesday - that's 8 vacation days and totally fine when they are booked in succession - it will not be looked at as a week of vacation and 3 single days.

Peter & Linda Novak Tragedy

As many of you are already aware - we lost a member and a family lost both parents in a vehicle accident involving Peter and Linda Novak. Peter was a casual member of our Local and his wife Linda worked in IT at the Ed Center. The funeral is today and some of our members that worked with Peter over the past few months will be attending to pay their respects, support the daughters left behind and begin to grieve over the loss of a co-worker. I want to encourage all our members to seriously consider donating to the GoFundMe page set up to help Peter and Linda's daughters as they try to make sense of what's happened and how to move forward themselves. Could be \$5 or \$10 or more if you're able to do that - what matters most is supporting one of our own members when it really counts and what you would hope your co-workers would do to support your family if a tragedy like this ever happened.

Please visit the GoFundMe page here -

https://www.gofundme.com/f/peter-and-linda-novak?utm_campaign=natman_sharesheet_dash&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&attribution_id=sl:4ae58322-d4eb-41d1-ac3a-0e236d389448

Striking Locals In the News

Currently in our area we have (and I'll apologize if I miss one or more) the following Locals on strike that need support in many ways - consider taking an hour to go walk with them on their picket line or take a box of granola bars or juice boxes for them - or donate if you can.

CUPE 1750 - WSIB Workers - many people are surprised to hear that CUPE represents WSIB workers. I know I was when I learned that at a conference many years ago. No matter what you think of WSIB - please remember that they are workers like you and I that work for a company that has rules, regulations, policies and decision makers - same as our own employer. Just because bad decisions are made by those who are further up the ladder doesn't mean that the workers don't care and don't deserve support. You can learn more and support these workers by visiting the following:

<https://cupe.on.ca/more-than-insurance-cupe-1750-members-need-a-fair-deal-now/> or the Local website at <https://oceu.ca/>

CUPE 2073 - Canadian Hearing Society - you can visit their website, find their picket locations and contact them to see the best way to help out! <https://cupe2073.ca/>

DHL Workers - Hamilton Airport -

<https://www.unifor.org/news/all-news/dhl-express-canada-locations-locked-out-and-strike>

Hamilton Water Treatment Workers -

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/water-strike-1.7534577>

Remember - our contract expires next August. We were on an illegal strike during negotiations last time for two days. Support from other unions and Locals was very empowering for us to get the gains we did and make a statement to the government. If we expect that support when we need it - we need to freely support others when they need it. That's what family does.

Hope you're all enjoying the nicer weather - I think I can put my snow brush from the car away for a couple months now. I know it's a hectic time with the end of the school year, kids wanting to be outside instead of inside and our co-workers trying to purge stuff from their classrooms before they take off for the summer. But, there is an end in sight and it's coming fast and then it's our beloved summer cleaning time! I really do appreciate all the hours and effort it takes to keep schools running properly this last month when at any given moment things could go haywire. We are the reason the schools can stay open and functioning.

I've included the most recent Union Contact List with this update - if you don't have one posted in your caretaking office - please print this off and post it for communication purposes!

Cheers,
Blake

ELECTED OFFICIALS ~ JUNE 20, 2024

Term: June, 2024 – June, 2026:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Blake Corkill	Memorial	Days	905-544-7733
1 st Vice-President	Pat Amatangelo	Rousseau	Days	905-518-7963
2 nd Vice-President	Geoff Thompson	Rosedale	Days	905-544-7733
Recording Secretary	Kristin Cox	Westdale	Rotation	905-308-5090
Secretary-Treasurer	Marilyn MacAloney	Westdale	Afternoons	289-442-7587
Chief Steward	Dave Dickhout	Maintenance	Days	905-518-7064
Membership Officer	Dave Winger	Casual		905-518-7091
Membership Officer	Doug Thornberry	Maintenance	Days	289-237-8716

TRUSTEES

1 Year Trustee	Shelley Livingston	MacNab	Afternoons
2 Year Trustee	Rita Angeloni	Queen Mary	Afternoons
3 Year Trustee	Robert Desperak	Maintenance	Days

SHOP STEWARDS

Shop Steward	Dannie Catanyag	Waterdown	Days	905-466-7184
Shop Steward	Chris Cosby	Maintenance	Days	905-518-5449
Shop Steward	Sarah Graves	Maintenance	Days	289-237-5672
Shop Steward	VACANT			
Shop Steward	Laurie Penner	Orchard Park	Days	905-518-7024
Shop Steward	Renate Schrank	Templemead	Afternoons	
Shop Steward	Jennifer Stokes	Balaclava	Days	289-808-1906
Shop Steward	John Thompson	R. A. Riddell	Days	289-442-1052
Shop Steward	Dave Wardell	Buchanan Park	Days	905-929-3988
Shop Steward	Dave Winger	R. A. Riddell	Afternoons	905-518-7091

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Core Rep., Chair	Kristin Cox	Westdale	Afternoons	905-308-5090
Core Representative	Laurie Penner	Orchard Park	Days	
Core Representative	Renate Schrank	Templemead	Afternoons	
	Nolan Balibalos	Chedoke	Afternoons	
	Dannie Catanyag	Waterdown	Days	
	Sarah Graves	Maintenance	Days	
	Marilyn Mac Aloney	Westdale	Afternoons	
	John Moning	Bennetto	Afternoons	

UNION OFFICE

Janna Thomson, Office Administrator
B2 – 795 King Street East, Hamilton ON L8M 1A8
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Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ~ Monday through Thursday
Email: cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca
Website: www.cupe.4153.ca

PLEASE REPLACE ANY LIST POSTED BEFORE MARCH 25, 2025