



Newsletter

SPRING 2021, ISSUE 11

CUPE Local 748 is comprised of the support staff of The Kootenay Lake School District #8 as well as the employees of Creston and District Community Complex and The Creston Valley Public Library



The following people have been nominated for positions on the Executive – further nominations and elections will take place at the AGM:

President: **Michelle Bennett**

Vice President East: **Rhonda Kirby; Ken Kusnir**

Secretary: **Stacey Finley**

Creston Area Rep: **Laura-Lee Arsenault**

Salmo Area Rep: **Claire Mobbs**

Nelson Area Rep: **Shannon May**

Shop Stewards: **Rena Bens; Kathy Centrone; Pat St. Pierre; Rhonda Kirby; Carol Sanders**

Membership Officer East: **Ken Kusnir; Colleen Kuny**

Safety Rep East: **Ken Kusnir; Carol Sanders**

## **Join us at the CUPE 748 AGM**

**Saturday May 8 by Zoom –  
10 am both Nelson and Creston**

Nominations and Elections will take place for the following positions:

President

Vice President East

Secretary

Area Reps (Nelson, Creston, Kaslo, Crawford Bay, Slocan, Salmo)

Lead Steward

Shop Stewards (6)

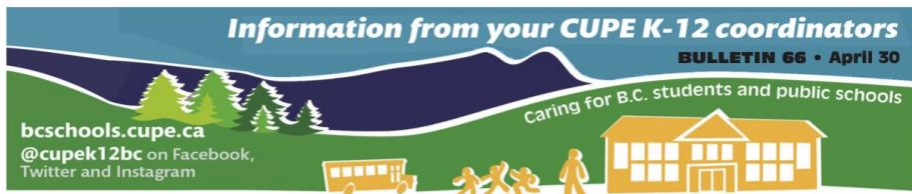
Trustee (Three-year term)

Membership Officers (East and West)

Safety Reps (East and West)

For a description of these roles, go to  
<https://www.cupelocal748.com/executives.html>

**Come out and VOTE!**



## Reporting COVID-19 contracted at work to WorkSafeBC

CUPE members in K-12 and early learning are strongly encouraged to file a WorkSafeBC claim, using [Form 6](#), in any and all instances where they have reason to believe they contracted COVID-19 while at work.

Current data provided by WorkSafeBC shows that the number of COVID-19 claims received for the education sector is quite low relative to the health and social services sectors. This suggests that the rate of COVID-19 cases from K-12 workplaces is low or that there is significant under-reporting of COVID-19 illnesses in this sector, or a combination of both.

It is a legislated requirement to report to WorkSafeBC if you have contracted COVID-19 while working. Also, there may be unforeseen long term conditions from COVID-19 that may be compensable, such as post-COVID syndrome. COVID-19 claims may be accepted for health care benefits even if there is no time loss.

### Reporting illness or injury

As per the [Guide on Filing WCB Claims for COVID-19](#) the process for reporting an illness or injury (including COVID-19) resulting from your employment is to:

- Report to your employer **AND**
- Complete and submit a [WorkSafeBC Form 6](#) found at this link or provided by your employer when you report a workplace illness or injury

Members must report COVID-19 illness to their employer and to WorkSafeBC, and it is in their best interests to do so.

Cases of COVID-19 in the education sector are viewed by WorkSafeBC as due to presumptive workplace exposure. This means that cases of COVID-19 reported by K-12 (and early learning) staff have a high likelihood to be presumed as work-related and approved for claim.

### Benefits of reporting to WorkSafeBC

On an approved claim, any time loss may be covered by WorkSafeBC rather than impacting a member's pay or sick bank. Reporting cases of COVID-19 may also protect members from any time loss related to unforeseen subsequent health impacts resulting from the initial COVID-19 illness. Having members file claims and report that a claim has been filed is important information for Joint Health and Safety Committees and health and safety in the workplace.

*We will continue to remind WorkSafeBC and other stakeholders that we expect inclusive references to everyone in the education system, rather than simply referencing "teachers". In the interest of transparency we have asked that WorkSafeBC provide data on the number of CUPE members, teachers, and administrators exposed to COVID-19, as well as the number of claims accepted in each category.*

Please follow us @cupek12bc on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and view bulletins at <https://bcschools.cupe.ca>

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## Did You Know . . .

When you are waiting for approval on an absence in SFE, there may be a comment from HR. In order to see this comment, you must go to Absence Approval, put in your date range, then click on the level (10/5 is fully approved). Then you can see the comment section. You can also leave a comment for HR.

The screenshots show the SmartFind Express Absence Approval interface. The left screenshot shows the search criteria with 'Absence Approval' highlighted in red. The right screenshot shows the 'Absence Approval History' table and the 'Comments' section, with a red arrow pointing to the 'Level' column and a red circle around the 'Comments' header.

Person	Access ID	Approval Method (User group / Location Admin)	Date	Reason on the job	Level	Action	Job Status
Kirby,Rhonda		N/A	04/23/2021 11:02 AM	Medical/Dental - CUPE	D/5	Submitted	All Pending
Beddoes,Mary Joanne		Location Admin	04/23/2021 11:19 AM	Medical/Dental - CUPE	1/5	Approved	All Pending
Montpellier,Theresa		Location Admin	04/25/2021 01:17 PM	Medical/Dental - CUPE	10/5	Approved	Approved

Job #	Start Date	End Date	Reason	Status	Level	Last Action By	Last Action
93750	05/03/2021 02:20 PM	05/03/2021 02:45 PM	Medical/Dental - CUPE	Approved	10/5	Montpellier,Theresa	Approved
93751	05/10/2021 11:45 AM	05/10/2021 02:45 PM	Union Paid - CUPE Union Business Leave	Pending	1/5	Beddoes,Mary Joanne	Approved

## CUPE COVID Exposure Procedures

-Call 811 if you are feeling unwell, if you have symptoms of COVID go for a test

-If employer requests you to self-isolate, employer pays, use sick time, and put notes in the comments.

-Contact Melissa Maida if you are waiting results of a COVID test. Phone: 250-505-7064 Email: [hrrservices@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:hrrservices@sd8.bc.ca)

-If Interior Health (Public Health) contacts you regarding a school exposure, contact EI, Service Canada online

-If Interior Health (Public Health) contacts you regarding a community exposure, contact EI, Service Canada online (Recovery Benefit, Caring for a close contact benefit)

-If you test positive contact WorkSafe

-If you are feeling anxiety around COVID, contact your doctor

-If staff and students are not following protocols contact your Administrator

-Contact a CUPE Union Executive member for support

-Contact EFAP for self-care (stress, anxiety management)



## A Message From the President:

Good Afternoon Brothers and Sisters, I will be allowing my name to stand for President of CUPE Local 748. It has been my pleasure to serve you since 2005, in that time we have been through so much: bargaining, grievances, picket lines, arbitrations and now Covid 19 and all of the issues that go along with that. I have been humbled to serve you and hope to continue to do so. I can't wait until we are once again able to meet face to face talk and maybe share a hug! I am asking you to please come to one more zoom meeting, you are the members of this amazing local and you are the ones who decide which direction your local will go. We will be electing the executive for the next year and we really need to hear your voices.

See you Saturday :)

*Michelle Bennett*

*President*

*CUPE Local 748*

*President KDC*

*Secretary WKLC*

## Vice-President East Nominees

Hello Everyone as you know we are having elections for positions on the executive. I have been nominated to be the VPE. A little about myself, I am a hard worker and trustworthy, I have been Bus Stewart East and West for the Executive and have helped many people with some very difficult issues. I am currently the Safety Rep East and am enjoying what I have been doing. I sit on the JSAC committee as well as I am also on the custodial advisory committee. I have been to convention before which was quite insightful. I believe in a strong union and want to help all members of our union in school district 8 and all CUPE members with fairness for everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Ken Kusnir  
 Safety Rep East  
 CUPE local 748  
 School District 8 Kootenay Lake

Hello! My name is Rhonda Kirby, and I'm an EA at Adam Robertson Elementary in Creston. I've been with the school district for nine years. I've also been a CUPE Shop Steward for three years. I've spent that time learning the Collective Agreement (still learning!), arguing grievances for the membership, attending meetings and answering your questions. I'm on the Bylaws and Policies Committee and the Budget Committee.

I have a few reasons for running for Vice President East. I have a keen desire to help. I know how busy the President and Vice President West are, and am willing to get in there and be an extra set of eyes and hands. I'm organised and am happy to do the work.

I have really enjoyed my time as Shop Steward, and am interested in getting more in-depth information on the running of 748. I believe we are definitely stronger if we act together to make a better work environment.

I also have no illusions about how much volunteer time is necessary for this position. I'm willing to do that work, and be available to you when necessary.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to email me at [rhondabruys@gmail.com](mailto:rhondabruys@gmail.com) or message me through Facebook.

Please come out to the AGM and vote!

Rhonda Kirby  
 CUPE 748 Shop Steward

## GOODWILL

Know a member who's having a tough time due to illness or a death in their immediate family? Or maybe they've got a new baby or got married... contact our Goodwill reps!

West (Robin Sheppard): [goodwill748nelson@outlook.com](mailto:goodwill748nelson@outlook.com)

East (Laura-Lee Arsenault): [goodwill748creston@outlook.com](mailto:goodwill748creston@outlook.com)

## Your Executive

Michelle Bennett – President [michelleb748@gmail.com](mailto:michelleb748@gmail.com)  
Anita Early – Vice President West [aeary694@gmail.com](mailto:aeary694@gmail.com)  
Robin Sheppard – Treasurer [cupe748treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:cupe748treasurer@outlook.com)  
Stacey Finley – Secretary – [cupesec748@gmail.com](mailto:cupesec748@gmail.com)  
Rena Bens – Lead Steward [bensrena@gmail.com](mailto:bensrena@gmail.com)

### Area Reps:

Shannon May (Nelson) [shannonmay84@gmail.com](mailto:shannonmay84@gmail.com)  
Laura-Lee Arsenault (Creston) [lolli\\_29@hotmail.com](mailto:lolli_29@hotmail.com)  
Claire Mobbs (Salmo) [clairabean@yahoo.com](mailto:clairabean@yahoo.com)

### Shop Stewards:

Rhonda Kirby – [rhondabruys@gmail.com](mailto:rhondabruys@gmail.com)  
Kathy Centrone – [dkcenty@gmail.com](mailto:dkcenty@gmail.com)

### Safety Reps:

Anita Early (West) [aeary694@gmail.com](mailto:aeary694@gmail.com)  
Ken Kusnir (East) [kkusnir@telus.net](mailto:kkusnir@telus.net)



[www.cupelocal748.com](http://www.cupelocal748.com)

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