

CUPE 947 Executive 2018-2019

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Message from the President

Happy New School Year!

As I sit and write this September is almost over. The good news is that there is always hope for a better year - the no so good news is that we have already started a year off in dire need of more Educational Assistants. However, there is also a dire need for more funding from our Provincial Government and a need for our district to put more funds into our EAs and other support staff. The GVTA, parents and our members have been presenting at the Board meetings, it's been reported on in the paper and the news - some days it really feels like no one is listening. We need to keep up the pressure - don't do unpaid work, stay home if you aren't well, take your full lunch and coffee break, if there are no replacements it is up to your Admin team to figure this out. If you need our assistance please connect with us.

As we start the new year I invite you to send any articles or pictures you would like share in this newsletter. You will notice that the column submitted by Taily Willis, Indigenous Member at Large, is back this year and will cover topics that will provide you with knowledge on Reconciliation and other articles of interest. Lastly, if you would like members of our executive to visit your school to hear your thoughts and/or concerns please let me know - We can be available over the lunch hour or after school. I hope to see you at the meeting on October 1.

J. Massy
Jane Massy
President



Next Membership Meeting

- Tuesday, October 1 at 4:30 pm in Tolmie Boardroom 556 Boleskine Rd

CUPE 947 News



BURSARY APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

CUPE 947 has 3 bursaries that it provides to our members or their children - these are due on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 We will accept them until October 1 - please bring them along to our general meeting. Applications and further information on these awards is available on our CUPE 947 website at :

Hearts & Flowers

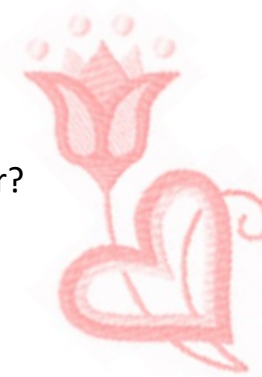
Have you moved recently? Got a new phone number?
Please keep your information up to date with HR.
For flower requests for a life event please...
Email natanissc@gmail.com or text 250-886-7765



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Are you Applying for a New Position?

Please be sure that your qualifications are up to date - especially if you are applying for a position in a new classification (ie. EA to Library Clerk or School Assistant to School Admin 3). Even though you may have submitted your qualifications to Human Resources they do not get entered into your online information.

You can easily update this information in Part C and D in the online posting screen. You can put a summary in the field and direct them to your file for a more complete profile. This would help Human Resources in determining if you are qualified and should ensure that the senior qualified applicant is awarded the position. If you feel you were overlooked please contact us via our Membership Secretary or President - both have access to this information - remember that nothing is too much trouble.



INDIGENOUS VOICES

Welcome back to a new school year and to our new ongoing newsletter column 'Indigenous Voices', 947 members. Over the next year in this column, I plan on delving into the history, culture and meaning of the First Nations people, along with how Reconciliation fits into our present day society. Following this issue's column, I will be exploring what Reconciliation means and its relevance in a 2-part article. The last two columns, I hope to bring forth discussion on the stories and culture of our local indigenous peoples, once I have received permission from them to share their history. My hope for this on-going column is to enlighten and stimulate discussion around Canada's history of its First People, the full history of colonialism and how it all relates to everyone in the present. But first, let us examine the history and relevance of "Orange Shirt Day" movement

Orange Shirt Day began on September 30, 2013 by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, who currently resides in Dog Creek, British Columbia. It is held on September 30th of each year because it was the annual time when First Nation's children were "collected" and delivered to residential schools. As a side note, the first residential school opened in 1831, in Ontario, with the last one closing in 1996 in Saskatchewan.

Most of the schools were run by Christian religious organizations under the direction of the Federal Government. Their stated and documented purpose was to assimilate the indigenous children into colonial society. This was done by shaming and demeaning native culture and heritage, not allowing the youth to speak their mother tongue, were forced to stay at the schools for months and even years at a time, hundreds of miles away from their homes, family and support networks. Thousands of stories of mental, physical, sexual and spiritual abuse have been recorded. Many of these stories were told during the Reconciliation hearings. Many lawsuits to both the federal government and religious organizations have been in the courts and in the news over the last 20 plus years. Think about how you would react and feel if the government forcible took your children away from you, up to years at a time, force them to reject their culture and heritage, be ashamed of said culture/heritage and then have them returned to you after experiencing traumatic indoctrination at best and horrific abuse at worse. You would barely recognize the young person that was your child. Who knows how that young child came out at the other end of this experience?



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From these events and their repercussions, Orange Shirt Day was founded. Why Orange you may ask? It all stems from the incident when Phyllis Webstad was taken to residential school as a child. Her Grandmother gave her a new orange shirt for her to wear when she was taken away. The shirt was confiscated by the school upon her arrival and was never seen again. This was the beginning of the things that would be taken away from Phyllis and added to her trauma as a young child. Phyllis felt for the longest time that she didn't matter and was insignificant to herself, her family, her community and the world at large. This is why each orange shirt says "Every Child Matters!! Orange Shirt Day puts Reconciliation and residential schools in the forefront.

So how does the accurate historical representation of the above events help with Reconciliation? By allowing us as a society to acknowledge the wrongs of the past, begin the process of healing our indigenous and non-indigenous communities and help dispel the myths and stereotypes we all have of each other. This will allow us to move forwards, towards mutual respect and understanding of one another.

I look forward to my next columns on Reconciliation and its relevancy in today's society. Please feel free to send me comments and questions to the CUPE947 email, cupe947@gmail.com, with 'Indigenous Voices' in the subject heading.

In fact, I ENCOURAGE you to do this, as I will try to address questions and comments that arise from your input and queries. In the meantime, remember Phyllis, her orange shirt and embrace the mantra "Every Child Matters"

Thank You Taily Wills
(with thanks to the editing by Luciano Biscottini)

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ELECTIONS OCTOBER 1, 2019

We will be having by-elections at
the General meeting for the positions
of:

Chief Shop Steward

Recording Secretary

Three Year and One Year Trustee

Members at Large as necessary