



CUPE Local 829

Box 233 Medicine Hat Alberta T1A 7E9

Winter
2014



UPCOMING MEETING DATES: December 13 2014 January 17 2015. February 7 2015,
March 14 2015, April 25 2015, May 9 2015, June 13 2015

Message from President Sharon Stolz



It is time once again, brothers and sisters, to touch base and update you on where we are headed for the next school year. Already, we are over one month into the year with Christmas only a couple months away, bringing with it the end of 2014 and then only six months until summer 2015. That's how incredibly fast the years go, as well as the changes within education itself. Looking back to when I began my career and now, after dedicating 25 years of my life to working with children, I find myself reflecting on the changes in the education system and society. This has meant years of keeping an open mind and even bigger than that, the ability to allow change, moving on with the times to develop new techniques and interventions. Even bigger than these changes is the evolution of the child and how society has changed, making our jobs as support staff, emotionally and physically draining at times. The common denominator of the past 25 years, in my mind, is the difference we can make in the life of a child, but in today's world we find ourselves working harder to overcome the negative thought patterns with positive interactions. When I say this, I know that all three sectors can look back and can relate to these changes in our jobs. Our jobs have become tougher. The dollars needed to run schools far exceeds the funds that are allowed, due to the modern day needs of the children we educate and the increase in number of children requiring support.

In my position, I have the opportunity to meet with support staff from around the province and from across Canada. **Health and safety** has become a topic of conversation among our members all over the country. Violence in the workplace is a regular occurrence in schools and in our classrooms. I can't stress enough, the importance of filling out **incident/injury** reports, each and every time you experience **physical violation**. I know that many of us have not taken the extra time to do this, but the more reporting that is done, impacts employer awareness and the records are in place to fight this battle of bringing awareness to the situations we deal with daily. All school offices have these forms and they have to be made available to you. **Workers' Compensation** forms are available at your payroll offices and should be filled out for bodily injury, **even if you can continue on with your job**.

The records will be in place and the stats will grow.

June of 2014 brought changes to our custodial staff from **SD76**. With retiring members, the addition of the **Wilson Learning Centre** and loss of square footage at **MHHS**, the district revamped the schedules and positions at our two high schools. I want to thank all involved in this transition. Change is one of the hardest things we as humans have to deal with, and is especially hard after so many years of consistency. Our **Catholic Custodial** have been experiencing changes to their days for the past year as well and at this time are approaching the board to relook at the start times of their morning custodians. School districts, as our employer, hold the card to run their buildings the most effective way as possible. As a union, we cannot dictate changes they want to make within their buildings as long as the change has not affected loss of pay or hours to our members, unless mutually agreed upon. As long as the collective agreement hasn't been violated, we have to support them and their decisions.

Spring of 2015, brings preparations for bargaining a **new Collective Agreement** for **School District #76** Support Staff. You will be receiving notices for contract negotiation meetings and bargaining surveys, first part of the new year. Your input is very important at this time. Please take the time to fill out your surveys as the information compiled from these surveys is what the negotiating team uses to bargain a new contract. Go to **CUPE** sites across **Alberta /Canada**, and pull up other Collective Agreements to read for information and changes you might want to see. The **School District 76** contract expires August 31st, 2015. Even when money seems to be tight, there are non-monetary clauses we can bargain for.

In closing, I again have to touch on effective use of your sick time and how this strongly affects all of us. Please continue to use it wisely. **SD#76** members took a very hard hit last contract, due to the financial burden and overuse of this benefit. This is a benefit for you during times when you're down and out. It is wage protection, for times when you are sick and physically cannot make it to work. Our employer is now doing their job as well, of giving notice and meeting with employees when they notice patterns or overuse.

"We are each a unique being, but working together in teams allows for accomplishments not possible by any one of us." – Mary-Frances Winters

In Solidarity, President Sharon Stolz

CUPE Brings a Child a Smile Campaign



Angie Gackle, pictured here with this year's donation of helmets!!

The ***CUPE Brings a Child a Smile*** (CBCS) campaign is a committee made up of volunteers from Local 829, to help raise awareness of CUPE in our community by doing good works in and around Medicine Hat, that directly affects the children we work with each day.

While talking to our CUPE members, it has become apparent that local elementary schools are having a difficult time with their school ice skating program, due to many children not having the required CSA approved ice skating helmets or skates. Bicycle helmets are no longer acceptable substitutes. We have learned that while many schools have ice skates of varying sizes for children to use, very few schools have any hel-

metts for children to borrow. Local 829 believes that every child deserves a chance to learn how to skate regardless of their financial situation, and we would like to help make that happen.

Last year Local 829 donated two new CSA approved ice skating helmets to every elementary school in Medicine Hat and Redcliff. **This year we will donate two more new helmets to each school, plus we've started on a skate sharpening service for the donated skates that schools have for children without skates. We would like to acknowledge Doug Hendricks @ Monsignor McCoy for helping with this at a very reasonable rate.**

This is just the beginning for our *CUPE Brings a Child a Smile* campaign and we look forward to hearing any ideas you may have for us to continue to bring smiles to all the children in our community!



NEW PAJAMAS NEEDED

As a part of our focus on helping children and families in our community, **CUPE Local 829**, the Education Support Workers in Medicine Hat and Area, through our annual **CUPE Brings a Child a Smile Campaign**, we will once again be collecting new pajamas for the Phoenix Safe House. Nothing makes a person feel comforted and cared for like a new pair of comfy pajamas and no one needs this more than vulnerable families in transition. The Phoenix Safe house is always in need of new pajamas and we would like to encourage everyone in our community to help us help these

families by donating new pairs of pajamas in all sizes ranging from Ladies adult to infant.

We have arranged for drop-offs at all public elementary school offices in our district and we will pick up these pajamas regularly and wrap them in a nice gift pack with our CUPE logo and deliver them to the Phoenix Safe House.

This year's campaign will start **November 1st, 2014**. We would appreciate everyone helping to spread the word so that we can have the most successful campaign ever! If you have any questions please contact **Christina Schmidt at (403)928-6653**.

Save the Date!

The CUPE Retirement Social will be held this year on **Sunday, April 26, 2015** at the Medicine Hat Golf & Country Club

CUPE Local 829 Contact List 2014-2015

(September 26, 2014)

POSITION	NAME	HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Sharon Stolz	403-526-8973	403-526-4477	403-866-8973	wyett1@telus.net
Vice-President	Jake Braaten	403-527-9276	403-580-1108	403-580-1108	jake.braaten@mhcbce.ab.ca
Treasurer	Lorna Statham	403-529-6379	403-527-4541	n/a	2idiots@telus.net
Secretary	Val Brade	403-487-3331	403-527-3371	n/a	vbrade@shaw.ca
Shop Stewards	Clint Stojke (MHCBE 20)	403-527-8753	403-527-1177	403-878-4994	clinton.stojke@mhcbce.ab.ca
	Gary Getz (MHSD#76 Custodial)	403-527-6915	403-527-3730	403-866-9587	gidgetz@hotmail.com
	Clayton Orge (MHSD Custodial)	403-488-9655	403-528-6573	403-977-3570	clayton_orge@ymail.com
	Chris Schmidt (MHSD#76 E.A.)	403-928-6653	403-527-3750	403-928-6653	zoodlecrew2@yahoo.com
	Betty Rainville (MHSD#76 E.A.)	403-528-2925	403-526-9292	n/a	brainville@shaw.ca
Warden	Adrian McNeil	403-526-7898	403-529-2960	403-928-0938	avmcneil@gmail.com
	MHCBE#20 Custodial (1 vacant position)				
	MHSD#76 Clerical (2 vacant position)				
	MHSD#76 Ed. Asst. (3 vacant positions)				
	Prairie Rose Cust. (1 vacant position)				
3 year Trustee	Betty Rainville	403-528-2925	403-526-9292	n/a	brainville@shaw.ca
2 year Trustee	Clayton Orge	403-488-9655	403-528-6573	403-977-3570	clayton_orge@ymail.com
1 year Trustee	Gary Getz	403-527-6915	403-527-3730	403-866-9587	gidgetz@hotmail.com
Wellness Committee	Cynthia Henders (MHSD#76)	403-529-9195	403-529-2960	n/a	chenders@shaw.ca
	Corinne Miller-Feasey (MHCBE 20)	403-527-4456	403-527-8161	n/a	cormill@telus.net
Southern AB District Council	Sharon Stolz	403-526-8973	403-526-4477	403-866-8973	wyett1@telus.net
	Clayton Orge	403-488-9655	403-528-6573	403-977-3570	clayton_orge@ymail.com
MH District Labour Council	Sharon Stolz	403-526-8973	403-526-4477	403-866-8973	wyett1@telus.net
	Lorna Statham	403-529-6379	403-526-4495	n/a	2idiots@telus.net
	Jake Braaten	403-527-9276	403-580-1108	403-580-1108	jake.braaten@mhcbce.ab.ca
AB Educational Employee Comm	Sharon Stolz	403-526-8973	403-526-4477	403-866-8973	wyett1@telus.net
	Jake Braaten	403-527-9276	403-580-1108	403-580-1108	jake.braaten@mhcbce.ab.ca
	Chris Schmidt	403-928-6653	403-527-3750	403-928-6653	zoodlecrew2@yahoo.com

MEETING DRAWS

**Winners of the two \$20
Membership Draws are:**

September meeting -

Dave Romanchuk & Colleen Petryshyn

October meeting -

Colleen Petryshyn & Cynthia Henders

November meeting -

Gary Getz & Paula Wright

CONGRATULATIONS!!

NEW

We would like to remind you about the new CUPE Local 829 website which is now up and running!

Check there for meeting dates/notices, upcoming workshops, contact information for your Executive, pictures of our Bring a Child a Smile campaign and links to our Contracts, By-laws, ASEBP, LAPP and CUPE Alberta & CUPE National.

www.829.cupe.ca

Contact vbrade@shaw.ca if there is anything you would like to see posted to that site OR notice any errors/omissions.



Plan to attend our **CHRISTMAS MEETING** on **Saturday, December 13th at 10:00 am** at Alexandra Middle School (see page 4). There will be door prizes and a Christmas luncheon to be held after the meeting.

NOTE: Please bring a non-perishable food item for Alexandra Middle School's MY Place Christmas hamper construction. This is our little way of saying thanks for allowing us to use their Multi-Purpose Room for our meetings and workshops.



Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 829 Monthly Meeting Notice

**Saturday, December 13, 2014
@ 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting Location: ALEXANDRA MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Executive to meet @ 9:00 a.m. prior to the General Meeting)

- **Please bring a non-perishable food item(s) donation to this meeting.** (Any items collected will help MY Place at Alexandra Middle School, in conjunction with other agencies and the Santa Claus Fund, as they assemble Christmas hampers for needy Medicine Hat families).
- **New Pajamas in children's or adult ladies sizes** will also be accepted at the meeting for donation to the Phoenix Safe House as part of our "CUPE Brings a Child a Smile" campaign.
- There will be a **Christmas Luncheon & door prizes** following the General Meeting.

TENTATIVE Meeting Dates:

January 17, February 7, March 14, April 25, May 9, June 13

Please bring your membership card to ALL meetings:

If you have misplaced your card or were never issued one, you may get a replacement card at the meeting. If you have never paid the \$2 fee/received a card you may do this, prior to the general meeting, in order to have voting privileges.