

CUPE 5971

October 2018 Newsletter

President's Message

It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter. I have been working on a number of projects I am excited to share with you.

The first is the addition of a group of post-docs to our union. Please look at the brief article below for more details. Adding members to strengthen our union gives us a stronger voice. Please join me in welcoming our new members.

The next project I will be working on is a joint effort with URFA geared towards having a Mental Health Policy and an improved Return to Work process.

We have, after numerous conversations with HR, finally resolved the issues with our vacation balances caused by the switchover in calculations from days to hours. The employer has recognized the error in how they were counting partial days, and it will be corrected to ensure that employees don't unfairly lose vacation time.

We are still waiting on bargaining dates with First Nations University, but I am hopeful we will meet before the end of the year.

Grievances remain high, but the employer has agreed to look into specific departments by performing interviews in toxic work environments on campus. We hope that this move will help to expedite a number of our outstanding concerns.

As an executive member of CUPE SK, I was asked to sit on an ad-hoc committee to decide if CUPE SK should affiliate with the NDP. I plan to bring the committee to our executive and local

for a presentation so that our members can make an informed decision.

Here is a brief list of events I will be attending in the next month:

- Oct 24-27- Saskatchewan Federation of Labour convention. Among many resolutions, there will be a motion to increase their per capita fee from a flat rate to a percentage.
- Nov 4-8- CUPE National Sector Conference. A major topic there will be violence and sexual violence in the workplace.
- The last two weeks of October I will also be present at all the area meetings. I look forward to the chance to meet with members in a small group setting. Bring your questions and concerns!

Lastly, I wanted to mention that the Christmas Social will be on Saturday, November the 24th. It is sure to be a good time, and I encourage all members to attend.

Local 5791 Welcomes 70 Members in New Bargaining Subunit

Approximately 70 postdoctoral fellows and non-student researchers and technicians at the University of Regina voted 88% in favour of joining CUPE over the summer. The Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board issued a certification order for the new bargaining unit in August. In September the workers held their first union meeting and voted unanimously to join Local 5791 as a subunit, pending a vote of acceptance from the general membership. On October 10, members of Local 5791 voted to welcome the new bargaining unit at a general membership meeting. These new members will have their own bargaining committee and an

Executive-At-Large on the 5791 local executive. We are happy to welcome these members and look forward to building our local together, increasing our solidarity and bargaining strength on campus.

CUPE 5971 Area Meetings

As discussed in the GM we will be having smaller area meetings in October.

Oct 17- Custodians- 11:30 am in ED 623

Oct 19- Chartwells- 2:30 pm in Riddell Food Court

Oct 23- Clerical and Library- NOON in LI 215

Oct 24-Applied Scientific- NOON in ED 310

Oct 30- College Ave- NOON in CB 132

Trades & Security- TBD

At each area meeting, you will nominate members for Executive Members at Large to be on the 5791 Executive for the 2019 year. Those names will be brought forward to the November 16 General Membership Meeting. This is also a chance to bring up questions and concerns in a small group setting. This is especially important for issues that might specifically affect your workgroup.

November Elections

On November 16th we will be have our annual elections. The positions that are up for election are:

- Union President
- 2nd Vice President
- Sergeant at arms
- Recording Secretary
- 1 Trustee position
- All executive at large positions.

We hope that executive members at large will have been chosen at the area meetings so that they can be confirmed at this meeting by the membership. Please note that this meeting is happening on a Friday, not the normal Wednesday. We also expect that this meeting will run longer since there is likely to be a lot of discussion. Please plan accordingly.

Your Executive Team:

Table Officers

President – Jamie Mellor
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1st Vice President- Shane Belter
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2nd Vice President- Vacant

Recording Secretary- Velda Gottselig
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Treasurer- Brad Martin
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Executive Members at Large

Custodian- Danielle Myers
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College Ave- Emilie Kossick
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Operational Services- Allison Marshall
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Operational Services- Mary-Catherine Litalien
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Operational Services- Louise Smith
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Operational Services- Melanie Parisian
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Library- Kelly Jackman
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Mackenzie Art Gallery- Brenda Smith
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Trades/Security Services- James Batalha
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Applied Scientific Services- Raheel Masood
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Chartwells- Gaby Liesz
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Post-Doc- Zoraida Quinones
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First Nations University- Louise McCallum
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Sargent at Arms- Marina Ahrendt
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Upcoming Meetings

GM- Nov 16- Location CL 125