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December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 ~ Newsletter



**YOU ARE IMPORTANT ~ TAKING CARE IS IMPORTANT**

Mental well-being or positive mental health impacts how we think, what we feel and the way we act. It also affects how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. We need to take care of our mental health because it's an important part of our overall health.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/mental-health>

Through the SD#47 Portal under the Health Icon you can find our EFAP services available to all SD#47 Employees and their families.

[https://portal.sd47.bc.ca/group/ga33r6z/Pages/EFAP.aspx#/="](https://portal.sd47.bc.ca/group/ga33r6z/Pages/EFAP.aspx#/=)

SD#47 Health & Mental Health Resources

[https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Programs/covid19health/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Programs/covid19health/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

**bc211** a British Columbia, non-profit organization that provides a free, confidential, multilingual service that links people to resources for help, where and when they need it. We provide information about and referral to a broad range of programs and services, including:

- basic needs like food and shelter
- mental health and addictions support
- legal and financial assistance
- support for seniors, and much more.

Help is available 24/7 by calling or texting 211. <https://www.bc211.ca/>

**Our Next Pro-D Day is February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The goal of Professional Development is not to simply fill your day with workshops and conversation but to find meaningful opportunities that will support you in the work and profession you are in. We would appreciate having viewpoints from all departments and are looking for members to participate in actively planning what would be beneficial. Please reach out to Aileen at [cupe476@shaw.ca](mailto:cupe476@shaw.ca) to talk about what interest you.

*You have the right and responsibility to bring questions and concerns to your Principal, Administrator, Manager, Health & Safety Site Rep. AND Your Union Representative*

*We are meant to work together to work through and resolve.*



**GOOD OF THE UNION:**

**We know that many in our community and even within our local have found these last months difficult. To assist our neighbours, donations have been made to the PR Legion, PR Foodbank as well as the PR Christmas Cheer Campaign. If you can, we encourage everyone to continue to help our community.**



**Do we have your current contact information?**

Although we do post on our Facebook Group page, we also send out important news to your personal email. Without that, you may miss details. Please connect with us to stay up to date.

[cupe476@shaw.ca](mailto:cupe476@shaw.ca)

**CUPE476 Executive have been in contact with the District and the Board of Trustees for SD#47 regarding the need to reinforce the COVID-19 messages for the Health and Safety of all. Please read an excerpt from the Chairperson’s message to us all →**

**WASHING YOUR HANDS**



No close contact or socializing at breaks.



***"We strongly recommend that all staff wear a mask when they are unable to safely physically distance ... we are all relying on one another to do what's best to protect ourselves and each other..."***

Aaron Reid

Trying to find or be "100% great" these days is hard, but doing nothing, looking for loopholes & justifications, is not an option. Each layer builds upon the others. We, each, personally can make changes for ourselves and this is vital to us all. Help Yourself, your colleagues, our students, our families, and communities to stay healthy. We are all have a part of plan. You make the difference!! Thank you!!

➔ Recent changes noted the need to have more active Daily Health checks. This is your reminder that **employees monitor themselves daily** and to always stay home if they have symptoms. This is as part of your active personal responsibility during COVID-19. Everyone is different and knowing your own benchmark is important, yet it is always wise to be more cautious than not.

In my conversations with WorkSafe and CUPEK-12, there are departments and areas that would not necessarily or simply be classified as "School Settings", when that is the case, the WSBC document for workplaces must be adhered to. [COVID-19: What workers can expect when returning to work - WorkSafeBC](#)

➔ It is strongly recommended that masks be worn in the following areas: [Province-wide restrictions - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) Shared indoor workplace spaces, including:

- Elevators
- Kitchens
- Hallways
- Break rooms

**extra care should be taken in small office spaces, break rooms and kitchens**

➔ It is recommended that virtual meetings be held as much as possible [in place of in-person meetings]

➔ Bill 23 Workers Compensation Act updated this summer to Include Covid-19. This legislation will fast-track the effective date of presumptions **if established by WorkSafeBC's board of directors for occupational diseases caused by viral pathogens.** The presumption would simplify the process for workers who make a workers' compensation claim if they contract viruses on the job. This would ensure that people who are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 at work are able to access benefits more quickly. ➔ This means, you need to take every precaution available; no sharing utensils or food, spacing during breaks, ventilation, wearing your mask correctly, and completing a daily self-check etc. Take care of yourself and those around you!

**ONGOING ➔ We have been assured that every time there are new PH Orders or updates through WSBC there is a review of our existing Safety Plan as well as discussion during the monthly Administrator Mtgs.**

**SD#47 Safety Plan ➔** available on their website as well as posted and "readily available for review by workers, other persons who may attend at the workplace to provide services and members of the public" (May 14, 2020, the Provincial Health Officer)

**SD#47 Board of Education Administrative Procedure 535 ➔ Safety Committee**  
**(Important part of our daily operations and Vital during a crisis)**

There shall be a Safety Committee established for each school and department (worksite) consisting of a minimum of the principal or supervisor and one C.U.P.E. and one P.R.D.T.A. employee, where possible, selected by the workers in that location. Members of the Safety Committee shall be elected by their union or be volunteers.

Each committee shall ensure that a complete inspection of the workplace is done at least once a month and more often where the situation is warranted. This report shall be forwarded to the District Safety Committee.

**Brooks:** Chris Young (CUPE),

Andy Payne (PRDTA) Tanya Larkin (Admin.) (J.Kennedy Alt.)

**Edgehill:** Shirley Wilson (CUPE),

Stephen Ball (PRDTA), Ian Landy (Admin.)

**Henderson:** Brian Burroughs (CUPE),

Cory Gordon (PRDTA) Jasmin Marshman (Admin.)

**James Thomson:** Steve Slater (CUPE) ,

Ruth Mackenzie (PRDTA), Lisa Gunn (Admin.)

**Kelly Creek:** Shane Lai (CUPE),

Lucien Ervington (PRDTA), Jamie Burt (Admin.)

**Westview:** Greg Mead (CUPE)

Samantha Christmann (PRDTA) Lisa Lewis (Admin.)

**Texada:** Scott Malin (PRDTA) Rhonda Gordon (Admin.)

**OVEC:** vacant?(PRDTA) vacant?(CUPE), Don Fairbairn Admin.

No Cmts. At Maint. Shop, Bus Garage, Board Office or PIE(Bowen Island/Van. Island offices)

"All sites should have their joint Health and Safety Committees up and running. This is our first line to address safety concerns ... [to meet the] recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer... Contact your local if you need help to address issues." ... " Warren Williams K-12 Presidents Council President

<https://bcschools.cupe.ca/> Here you can find Links to the latest K-12 updated information on COVID-19 **December 9, 2020**



All of the current district and school info has been updated and posted online at

[https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Pages/covid19.aspx#/=](https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Pages/covid19.aspx#/)

**Q & A**

<https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Documents/Questions%20and%20Answers%20-%20Return%20to%20In%20Class%20Instruction.pdf>

**CONTACT US at [cupe476@shaw.ca](mailto:cupe476@shaw.ca)**  
**Main Office Ph.# 604-485-5441**

President – Aileen O'Keefe Vice President - Vacant  
Sec.-Treasurer – Darlene Cattanach  
Recording Secretary - Linda Stapleton  
Sergeant-at-arms – Shanfi Payne  
Members-at-large: Brian Burroughs, Shawn James, Karen Tupper.  
Trustees: Carol Ward, Dawn McLeod, Margaret Peters.



12-27

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By  
JEFF  
KEANE  
"My ears are too cold to listen!"