

COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES OPERATIONAL STAFF

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer vibes and sunny skies

Greetings CUPE 2773 Members,

As we ease into summer, there's no shortage of things to celebrate - June is Pride Month, our COTR Convocation Ceremony takes place on June 13th, and we're also recognizing National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, just to name a few. It's a time of reflection, celebration, and connection.

While summer may bring some well-earned time off, I know many departments are facing challenges like short staffing and high workloads. So I want to take a moment to encourage you to celebrate yourselves - your resilience, your dedication, and the incredible work you do every day.

For those of you who may not know me yet, I've been with the College for nearly eight years in the role of Digital Marketing Specialist and have proudly served as your Communications Officer on the CUPE 2773 Executive for the past three. I also sit as a representative on the Joint Rehabilitation Committee(JRC), and if you ever find yourself navigating the Manulife process for an extended leave, please don't hesitate to reach out - I'm always happy to support our members however I can.



KARLA VISHLOFF
CUPE 2773 COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



In addition, I represent CUPE on the College's Accessibility Advisory Committee, where I continue to advocate for a more accessible and inclusive campus experience for everyone. Being part of CUPE and supporting our members is something I find incredibly meaningful and rewarding.

Wishing you a summer filled with sunshine, rest, memorable moments and joy - you have earned and deserve it!

-Karla



2025 Community Team Building & PD Days

Learning, Laughing, and Mocktails!

We hope everyone had a great time at this year's Community Team Building and Professional Development Days on May 29th and 30th! From diving into important conversations in Working and Learning with Neurodiversity, Awareness and Preparedness for Wildlife Season, Beyond the Screen: Accessibility, and Walking the Tightrope of Work, to picking up a pen for some playful calligraphy—there was something for every curious mind and creative spirit.

Between sessions, folks got their steps in with wellness activities, learned to toss a disc like a pro, and even picked up some slick new Microsoft 365 skills. Of course, no PD day is complete without snacks: mornings kicked off with a hearty breakfast, and the days wound down in style with mocktails, healthy drinks, and the very popular Wine & Cheese hosted by President Michael Crowe.

Thanks to everyone who participated – you made it a meaningful (and memorable!) few days of connection, learning, and a lot of laughs.

Convention 2025

May 30 – June 3, Kristy Brons and Joanne MacLean travelled to Vancouver to attend the 2025 CUPE BC Convention.

After four days of purposeful discussion, debate and comradery, CUPE BC concluded this year's annual event with a renewed sense of connection and momentum.

A key theme of the convention was dealing with growing economic and political uncertainty.



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This was my first time attending convention, and I was thankful to have Kristy there to show me the ropes – the size and scope of it all would have been overwhelming on my own! I highly recommend attending if you get the chance. It was eye-opening to see how diverse the CUPE BC membership is, and how, no matter what sector we work in, we share the same core values and goals.

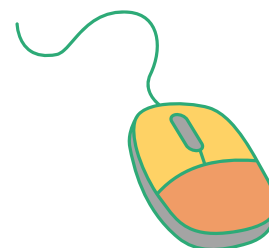
The days were long, but I left feeling encouraged to be part of CUPE BC – the largest union in the province – and motivated to learn even more.

~ Joanne M.

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Professional Development

Submitted by Miguel Peinado
COTR Website Developer



Reflections on Kuali Days 2025

Attending Kuali Days 2025 in Anaheim, CA, was a valuable and enriching experience, both professionally and personally. Having spent the past few years working independently with the Kuali platform—primarily through email correspondence and virtual meetings—it was refreshing to finally meet in person with many of the individuals who have supported and collaborated with me over the years. Putting faces to names and voices added a much-needed human element to the work we've done together.

The training sessions were incredibly useful, offering new insights and best practices I hadn't previously considered during the development of our website's integration with Kuali. These sessions helped broaden my understanding of how to optimize our current setup and improve future implementations.

At College of the Rockies, we use Kuali Curriculum Manager in a unique and efficient way. Through its API, we automatically pull course and program information and display it dynamically on our website. This setup not only keeps our content accurate and up to date but also automates the generation of course outlines in PDF format, creating a centralized and reliable repository for academic information.

One of the standout moments of the conference was during a session titled "How to Use the Kuali API on Your Website." To my surprise—and great honor—College of the Rockies was showcased as a case study for effective API implementation. I was initially caught off guard, feeling both proud and slightly embarrassed, but the moment quickly turned into a fantastic opportunity. I was invited to share insights about our implementation, answer questions, and connect with other attendees interested in replicating similar functionality. This sparked engaging conversations and opened doors for meaningful networking.

In summary, Kuali Days 2025 was not just a learning opportunity, but also a rewarding experience in community-building and professional growth. I'm already looking forward to next year's conference and the chance to continue developing both our systems and our network.

Here are a few examples of how we use the Kuali API in action:

Courses: Data automatically pulled from Kuali Curriculum Manager
<https://cotr.bc.ca/courses/>

Programs: Detailed course information integrated via Kuali
<https://cotr.bc.ca/programs/>

Outlines: PDFs generated through an internal API connected to Kuali

- o [Courses](#)
- o [Programs](#)
- o [Academic calendar](#)



Embracing life-long learning



Union Education

YOUR NEXT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Whether you're an Executive member, part of a CUPE committee, or a member in good standing interested in enhancing your skills or learning something new, we encourage you to explore these upcoming workshops. These sessions are conducted online via Zoom and cover a variety of topics.

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES OF INTEREST

Introduction to Stewarding – Part 1 & 2

June 23, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)

[Register here](#)

Anti-Harassment and Bystander Training & Duty of Fair Representation

July 16, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)

[Register here](#)

Introduction to CUPE & Introduction to Allyship

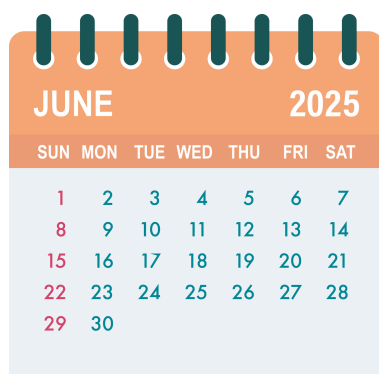
August 13, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)

[Register here](#)



EDUCATION CALENDAR

CUPE Calendar Summer 2025



CUPE GENERAL MEETINGS

For meeting times and locations, please visit the [EVENT CALENDAR](#) on the CUPE 2773 website.

BOARD / EXECUTIVE TEAM / GENERAL MEETINGS FOR SUMMER

Regular monthly meetings will begin again in September. Wishing everyone a fun, safe and memorable summer!

Meet your CUPE Colleagues from Student Housing!



Phoebe Chou

Student Housing
Operations Specialist

Livia Lara

Student Housing
Coordinator

Ankita Dubey

Student Housing
Assistant

You might notice a mix of fresh and familiar faces
on campus these days!

Welcome

Cydnee Hall - Accounts Payable Cash Receipts
Mackenzie Boughton - Helpdesk Deskside Support Asst.
Brandon Newton - Facilities
Deb Ostwald - Production Support
Ankita Dubey - Student Housing Asst.

"Never Have I Ever" – Work Version

Score one point if you **have** experienced the situation described.

Never have I ever presented to the board of directors.

Never have I ever been in a public relations crisis.

Never have I ever worked a weekend shift.

Never have I ever visited the Gold Creek campus.

Never have I ever called Campus Security.

Never have I ever taken a class at COTR.

Never have I ever played a prank on a coworker.

Never have I ever visited the Invermere campus.

Never have I ever had to call the IT Helpdesk.

Never have I ever had a student complain loudly.

Never have I ever snooped through a colleague's stuff.

Never have I ever fallen asleep at work.

Never have I ever come to work wearing two different shoes or socks.

Never have I ever dined in the Class Act Dining Room.

Never have I ever been to an Avalanche game.



Email the number of points you scored by midnight, June 13, 2025 to cupe2773president@gmail.com to be entered to win a P-R-I-Z-E!

CUPE BC Headlines

Bulletin – K-12
provincial
bargaining
continues

Employers need to
get the message –
concessions 'just
won't happen'

Course set for year
ahead; CUPE BC
wraps up 2025
convention

[VISIT THE CUPE 2773 WEBSITE](#)