

COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES OPERATIONAL STAFF

Quarterly Newsletter

It's the Ho-Ho-Holiday Edition!

Happy December, CUPE 2773!

As 2025 draws to an end and we approach some well-deserved time off over the Christmas break before jumping into 2026, I am taking time to reflect on a very busy and exciting 2025. My year included spending time camping and fishing with my family, my unique wedding on a baseball field over home plate, and travelling to many slo-pitch tournaments across the Kootenays, Alberta, and Kamloops throughout the summer. During the holidays, I hope we can all appreciate the beauty around us, even if it has been very warm for December and there is more ice than snow around Cranbrook!

If you have not formally met me yet, you may have seen me at the Enrolment Services counter or contacted me through RegHelp. After completing my Office Administration Certificate in May 2022, I started my journey as an employee of the College as an Enrolment Services Officer in January 2023. I also completed my Office Administration – Bookkeeping Specialty Certificate in September 2024 and am excited to start my next adventure as Admissions Coordinator in March 2026! Having been born and raised in Cranbrook, I am very proud to be part of the College of the Rockies community, as both an employee, and previous (and future!) student.

With our union, I am currently a Trustee, our CUPE representative on the Strategic Enrolment Management Steering Committee, a Shop Steward, and on the CUPE 2773 Executive. A very warm welcome to our newest CUPE 2773 Member, Clementine Chung who joins the Indigenous Education Department in the role of Indigenous Student Success Specialist.

I am very grateful to be surrounded by such caring and supportive colleagues through the union and look forward to seeing what 2026 will bring us. Wishing all CUPE 2773 members a cozy, relaxing, and joyous holiday break!



ALEXA DURBAN
CUPE 2773 SHOP STEWARD & TRUSTEE





CUPE Holiday Luncheon

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual holiday luncheon that took place December 5th at Fire & Oak. We hope you had an excellent time! Sending much appreciation to the 2025 CUPE Christmas Committee - Jenni M., Livia L., Courtney N., Ankita D., and Chao I. for creating such a fun and festive event!





Merry Christmas and all the best for 2026 from CUPE Local 2773

CUPE Calendar



CUPE GENERAL & EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETINGS

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

Please note: Dates and times may vary due to room availability. Always check your Outlook meeting invite for the most up-to-date info.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 12, 2026 – COTR BOARD ROOM
MARCH 19, 2026 – COTR BOARD ROOM

If you are interested in attending the public session of a board meeting please reach out to [Susan Woods](#) at least one week prior to confirm your attendance.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 1 – New Year's Day
FEBRUARY 16 – BC Family Day

Meet your CUPE Colleagues from the Regional campuses!

We asked everyone to share with us what their favourite holiday beverage is.



Maggie H.

Administrative Assistant

Peppermint white chocolate mocha



Maria G.

Program Administrator

Coffee
Espresso, cortado,
latte, iced... I love it
in all!



Nic W.

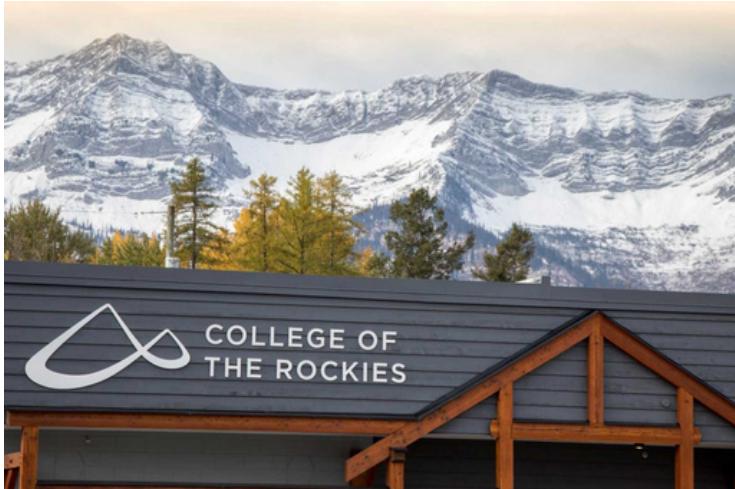
Regional Programmer

Borgia Coffee
(Mocha with fresh
orange zest or peel)

Rhonda K. also works in Creston as an auxiliary Admin Assistant.



Fernie



Leah M.
Administrative Assistant
Egg Nog Latte

Joanne M. (Administrative Assistant) and Lisa P. (Program Administrator) also work at the Fernie campus.



Gold Creek



Brittany F.

Coordinator CBT
School Works/
Summer Works

TBD

Julie S.

Program
Administrator
Plum Liquer

Julie's Plum Liquer

Wash and half enough pitted ripe Italian prune plums to fill a gallon jar approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Depending on the sweetness of the plums, add up to 1 cup of cane sugar. Add a vanilla bean, or a few slices of fresh ginger, or fresh lime peel. Fill the jar with vodka. Let it sit for at least 3 weeks, preferable longer. Strain and drink straight or top with Prosecco.

Coordinator, Columbia
Basin Trust ECE Wage
and Training Subsidy

"The Kraken"
(Kraken Black Spiced Rum
and Diet Coke)

Fire & Compliance
Administrator - FIT

Blueberry Tea
(1 oz Amaretto Liqueur,
1 oz Grand Marnier,
1 cup Orange Pekoe Tea,
cinnamon stick)

Carrie P., Carole-Anne C. (Admin Assistant), Sue I. (Fire Admin Assistant), Danielle R. (Administrative Assistant -FIT)
also work at the Gold Creek campus.




Cat S.

Administrative
Assistant

Shandy – a mix of beer
and sprite, I like to add
ginger beer for my own
variation.



Nicole G.

Program
Administrator

Mulled wine



Carmel R.

Aux. Admin Assistant

Mulled red wine soaked in
orange & lemon juice/peel,
white sugar, spiced with
cinnamon sticks, star anise and
cloves.

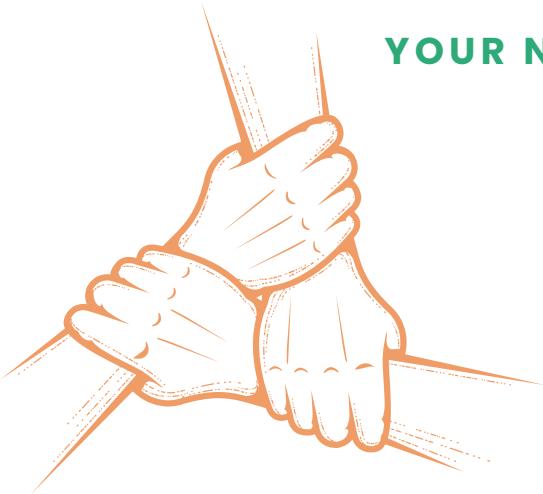


We'll feature our colleagues from Invermere in a future newsletter :)





YOUR NEXT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY AWAITS



Whether you're an Executive member, part of a CUPE committee, or a member 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 COURSES OF INTEREST

Introduction to Stewarding – Part 1 & 2

January 8, 2026 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)
[Register here](#)

Preparing for Bargaining & Notetaking

January 16, 2026 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)
[Register here](#)

Introduction to CUPE & Introduction to Allyship

January 13, 2026 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)
[Register here](#)

Grievance Handling & Duty of Fair Representation

January 26, 2026 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)
[Register here](#)

Anti-Harassment and Bystander Training & Conflict Skills for Union Activists

January 21, 2026 | 10:00am – 5:00pm (MT)
[Register here](#)

[EDUCATION CALENDAR](#)



CUPE Professional Development Funds

The CUPE Professional Development (PD) fund is meant to assist employees to upgrade skills that enhance and/or advance their careers within the College as well as the provincial College system.

These funds can be used to attend a conference, take a course that interests you, upskill, or even pursue a degree!

[Find out more about our PD Funds](#)

Time for some festive fun!

True or False – Holiday Traditions



1. In Japan, eating KFC on Christmas is a popular tradition.
2. The song Jingle Bells was originally written for Thanksgiving.
3. Real Christmas trees are banned in New York City.
4. In Iceland, there are 13 Christmas trolls known as Yule Lads.
5. The world's largest gingerbread house contained more than 35 million calories.
6. Decorating trees for winter celebrations began in ancient Egypt.
7. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created as a promotional character for a department store.
8. Fruitcake was once considered a luxury dessert because it contained imported spices and alcohol.
9. Canada was the first country to issue a postage stamp specifically for Christmas.
10. Mistletoe berries are edible and commonly used in holiday pies.
11. The average Canadian consumes more than 6 candy canes each December.
12. The movie Home Alone was originally titled A Holiday in Illinois.
13. In Norway, people hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to keep away witches and evil spirits.
14. The world's largest snowflake on record was 15 inches wide.
15. Santa Claus has his own official postal address in Canada.
16. Traditional Ukrainian Christmas trees are decorated with spider webs.
17. The first artificial Christmas trees were made of goose feathers.
18. In Germany, it's considered good luck to find a pickle ornament hidden in the Christmas tree.
19. The song Silent Night was written by a teenager.
20. In Venezuela, it's common to roller-skate to early morning Christmas mass.

Complete and email your answers to:

cupe2773president@gmail.com by midnight, December 15th for your chance to be entered into a draw to win a P-R-I-Z-E!

CUPE BC Headlines

[Big step forward for public childcare](#)

[A Statement from CUPE BC: Defending Truth, Rejecting Denialism](#)

[BC Ombudsperson needs to hear from you](#)

[VISIT THE CUPE 2773 WEBSITE](#)