cupe 2733

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

V3 Issue 3 | October 2026

CUPE Local 2773 | College of the Rockies Operational Staff

Settling into the School Year

October 23, 2026

Cybersecurity

As we move further into the school year, we hope everyone is settling into campus life and finding their rhythm. This is also a great time to refresh our cybersecurity habits and keep ourselves and our information safe.

We've asked Aly Gustafson from our IT team to share a few helpful cybersecurity tips and reminders for the year ahead.

Passwords vs Passphrase

Better security doesn't have to mean more complicated.
Passphrases, made up of four or more random, unrelated words, provide strong protection against hackers while being easier to remember than traditional passwords.

Length + Randomness = Strength



A great thanks to Aly and our IT team for helping keep our campus supported, connected, and secure!

CUPE Local 2773 acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded, traditional territory of the Ktunaxa people which is also home to the Kinbasket people. We are grateful that we have the opportunity to do so.

Get to Know the Enrolment Services Team!

The Enrolment Services team help students navigate important parts of their college journey, from registration and admissions to records, fees, and other student services. With all the recent changes to the department, now is a great time to get to know the team and learn more about what they do!



Left to right: Jason Columbo, Jennifer Inglis, Amber Flannigan, Marifer Lam, Sylvia Maher, Leya Dwyer, Maryn Roach, Alexa Durban, Hiroko Roberson, Aleksandra Prokhoda, Kristin Schachtel, Melanie O'Brien, Jay Bhatt, Johnny King, Moutik Patel.
Photo provided by Jay Bhatt.

Enrolment Services Officer
Aleksandra Prokhoda

"I'm a happy, positive, and enthusiastic person who loves meeting new people, spreading good vibes, and making others smile! After spending three months as a Room Booking Coordinator at COTR, I'm excited to start my new adventure as an Enrolment Officer. I bring lots of energy, a friendly attitude, and a sprinkle of humour to everything I do. I believe that a little kindness, a big smile, and a positive outlook can make every day brighter."

Enrolment Services Officer
Leya Dwyer

"I'm one of the friendly faces at the front counter, helping students navigate whatever brings them my way. I keep up with the ever-changing dance of 'add this course, drop that one... wait, put it back,' reunite duplicate accounts into their one true identity, and guard the legendary Master Key—ready to rescue faculty who find themselves on the wrong side of a locked door."

Room Bookings Coordinator
Karen Brewer

"I'm excited to share that I'm moving to Enrolment Services as the Call Centre Room Bookings Coordinator. I'm looking forward to working with a great group of colleagues and helping everyone find the right space for College activity".

Enrolment Services Officer
Alexa Durban

The CUPE community would like to send our best wishes to Alexa and her growing family. We already miss having her on campus and wish her all the best during this exciting new chapter.

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Enrolment Services Officer
Moutik Patel

Moutik helps students navigate the enrolment service process and connect them with information and resources through their educational journey.

Student Records and Graduation Officer
Jay Bhatt

"I am Jay. I am the Records and Graduation Officer. I am a happy soul who likes to read books and go for a swim."

Enrolment Services Officer
Hiroko Roberson

Hiroko assists students with enrolement-related questions and processes, helping them access information they need as they apply, register, and plan their studies.

International Admissions
Johnny King

Johnny supports international students on their educational path at the College by helping them navigate and access information and resources they need for success.

Student Navigator
Kristyann Diotte

Kristyann helps students find their way through college life by connecting them with the right people, services, and resources to support their needs.

Financial Assistance and Awards Officer
Marifer Lam

Marifer helps students explore financial assistance, scholarships, bursaries, and awards that may be available to support their education.

Assistant Registrar
Jennifer Inglis

"I've been in my new role for just over a month and the learning curve is steep. I'm thankful for the smart, dedicated, and supportive members of the Enrolment Services crew who have welcomed me to the team."

Admissions Officer
Amber Flannigan

"My name is Amber Flannigan, and I am an Admissions Officer. I handle admissions for university studies programs and apprenticeship trades."

2026 Fall Election Results

Congratulations to **Jenn Smith** on being elected to the Education Council for a two year term, and to **Darryl Dux** on being elected to the College Board for a three-year term.

We extend our appreciation to all nominees for their willingness to serve, and to everyone who voted and participated in the election.



Invest in Your Growth with Professional Development Funds!

Each CUPE member has access to Professional Development funds every year. These funds can be used for courses, conferences, workshops, and other learning opportunities that support your career growth. Speak to any of the members of the PD Committee for more info, or Find out more about our PD Funds here.

Staff Spotlight Feature



Submitted by Brianna Thompson, Nursing Lab Assistant

Working alongside the Health Faculty as Lab Assistant for Health Programs has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Through this work, I developed a strong admiration for their knowledge, dedication, and teaching, and realized that pursuing a similar path was a goal I wanted to work toward. Furthering my education and obtaining an undergraduate degree has been a long-standing personal and professional goal.

After speaking with colleagues and exploring my options, I decided to pursue the Bachelor of Arts in Adult Education through the University of the Fraser Valley, an online program that allows me to continue working while completing my studies. I began the program in Fall 2024 and am continuing to work toward my degree.



I have been fortunate to use my CUPE Professional Development funds to help cover the cost of tuition and textbooks, making it more manageable to pursue this educational goal while continuing to develop professionally. I am incredibly thankful to have access to this funding, as it has allowed me to invest in my education and professional growth. I have also used CUPE PD funds to attend conferences relevant to my field, where I have learned about new innovations in simulation education and gained knowledge and ideas that I can bring back to my workplace. Overall, this support has been invaluable in helping me continue my education, expand my skills, and grow in my role within health education.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS



KIM DUDAS
UACE PATHWAYS SPECIALIST

I am thrilled to have joined the COTR team as a UACE Pathways Specialist - a new support role at the College. UACE Pathways Specialists work across departments and with community partners to support outreach, intake, student navigation, and transition for UACE Pathways programming such as the Practical Nursing Preparatory Pathway. I have been working in Adult Education for decades and am confident that my background in student engagement and community outreach will serve me well in this role.



JUDE BIALIK
UACE PATHWAYS SPECIALIST

In September, I moved to Cranbrook from Lethbridge, Alberta, where I'd worked about 8 years at the Polytechnic and University there. In my free time, I enjoy reading, podcasts, crafts, cozy gaming, my cats, and yoga.

My position is brand new, so we're all still figuring out what I do. Haha. Right now, we're busy recruiting and planning for the Practical Nursing Preparatory (PNPR) program, which consists of all the prerequisite courses needed to enter the Practical Nursing program. I'm passionate about equitable and inclusive postsecondary education and I love working with students in support roles, so I'm looking forward to what the next year will bring!

Kim and Jude can be found in the Learning Commons, so feel free to stop by, say hello, and help make them feel welcome.

CUPE CALENDAR

General Meetings

For meeting times and locations, please check your Outlook meeting invite for the most up-to-date info. Please note: Dates and times may vary due to room availability.
If you haven't received the information, contact a member of the Executive Team.
Members must be in good standing to participate.

Board of Governors

November 4-6, 2026 - Fernie Board Retreat

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.

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Remembrance Day - November 11, 2026

Interest in Becoming a Shop Steward?



We're looking for members who want to get more involved in the union and support their fellow members. No experience is necessary, training and support are available! If you're interested in learning more about the role, please reach out to a member of the Executive Team or contact cupe2773president@gmail.com

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.

Introduction to Allyship

October 27, 2026 | Online | Free | Register here

Challenging Racism

October 28, 2026 | Online | Free | Register here

Health and Safety Learning Series

November 4-5, 2026 | Online | Free | Register here

EDUCATION CALENDAR

We Want to Hear from You!

Have something happening you would like to share? Or is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? We'd love to hear about it! If you have news to share, such as an event, project, achievement, PD activity or something interesting in your area, please consider reaching out for future newsletter editions. Your updates help keep our community informed and connected. Reach out to the Communications Officer anytime.

Cortney Newton | cnewton@cotr.bc.ca | 2773.cupe.ca

Word Search

Take a few minutes and see how many fall-oween themed words you can find!

Find all 10 words, and send an email to the below address. All correct words must be found for a chance to win.

F	V	M	T	U	P	O	I	H	Z	Y	J
S	E	U	P	Q	R	R	A	G	N	S	A
O	U	I	Y	W	D	L	R	M	R	W	C
M	X	C	L	D	L	A	U	T	N	O	K
I	N	K	W	O	V	T	H	V	E	R	O
P	G	N	W	E	U	X	E	G	R	C	L
E	O	E	Y	A	V	V	H	M	I	E	A
S	E	A	E	S	B	A	L	D	P	R	N
N	R	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	M	A	T
D	E	D	I	R	Y	A	H	U	A	C	E
D	P	D	R	A	H	C	R	O	V	S	R
X	X	C	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	A	N

Complete and email your answers to:
cupe2773president@gmail.com by midnight, November 2nd for your chance to be entered into a draw to win a P-R-I-Z-E!

CUPE BC Headlines

Truth Is Our Path to Reconciliation

UBC Academic Workers Vote Overwhelmingly for Strike Action

Smithers Municipal Workers Deliver Strong Strike Mandate

VISIT THE CUPE 2773 WEBSITE