

Welcome Back 2014-2015

On behalf of your CUPE 2545 executives, I would like to extend to all of you, a hearty welcome, whether you are new to the district or a returning employee. All CUPE 2545 members are fully dedicated to public education, from working with the children to keeping the schools in order and clean, you matter. We would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell and warm wishes to those members who are moving onto a new chapter in their life. Some members have retired, and some are returning to school, and some have moved, never the less we wish them all the best and thank you for your contribution to the children.

I believe the 2014/2015 school year is going to be challenging. Several changes are taking place and there will continue to be changes. It saddens me to say that as of June (recall time) we have 52 members that are still waiting for their job posting. For members returning to Fort McMurray Public many have accepted F. T. E. (Full time Employment) cuts, some members have had a cut in their banding. To avoid any surprises, I urge you to look at your recall letters. They should be on employee connect. Make sure that your recall letter is correct and you are aware of any and all changes. My expectation is that all members will be back to work soon and supporting our district's children.

Even though the start of year does not look promising, I am hopeful for some calmer times, after some very stormy times! I suspect however, our calmer times are not in the near future. Stress levels may be high with the choices relating to the new calendar and the whole day Fridays. With children not being in school every Friday, we still do not know the exact plan for the support staff during these times. This will make your decision tougher. You will have to decide what is best for you and your situations; I encourage all members to work all Fridays.

Our new CA (Collective Agreement) has been drawn up and with it we have a letter of understanding to create a joint committee to assess our job descriptions. Since the last time this was done was 14 years ago we are happy this is happening. Over the past while we have noticed that management has been adding, and/or changing our current job descriptions. We are hopeful that, management will not drag their feet on this much needed process, the committee will start immediately. Our new collective agreement is up on the web site and we will discuss if we shall have copies made. This will be a membership decision, I will try to have a cost for the September 18th General Meeting.

Our web master, Crystal Stoutenburg, has created a facebook page (CUPE Fmpsd) and an email address (cupe2545@gmail.com). Also check out new material on our web page, <http://2545.cupe.ca/>

Our first meeting is Sept 18th at Dr K.A. Clark School starting at 5pm, looking forward in seeing you there.

Once again, a huge welcome back, and to new members, welcome to FMSPD and CUPE 2545.

In Solidarity,

Lorna Tollman

CUPE President