

CUPE 2016 Fall Weeklong School-*Financial Officers Training*

One requirement of our by-laws is to send the newly elected Vice President to *Financial Officers Training*. Courses are usually offered over two days but this year there was a week long course available. So, I packed my suitcase and headed to Nanaimo BC along with our newly elected Secretary Treasurer, Petty Wong. I didn't know where we would start and what we would cover and I will admit I was a little nervous. Numbers are not my favourite. Now that it was out in the open and I couldn't ignore my disinterest any longer, I rolled up my sleeves and went to work.

The Workshop was facilitated by three amazing CUPE activists: Dennis Stock, President Local 718, Richmond, Nicole Edmondson, President Local 3500 Kamloops and Judy Henley, Regional Vice President, Saskatchewan. We covered everything and anything that is related to the finances of unions. What did I learn? Not only did I learn that numbers are not as scary as they seem...I learned the importance of having incredible people who are willing to step up, lean in and get the work done. The strength and capacity to conduct the business of the office, to hold the line during strikes and support each other during times of hardship swing on the hinge of our finances. Transparency, accuracy and dedication are at the very heart of what we do. The knowledge and expertise shared during the workshop will serve me for my career as an activist and will support my continued service to our members. I am always grateful for every opportunity to learn and give back. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank Petty Wong for her commitment, dedication and professionalism. Petty has worked incredibly hard over the last few months to help implement new practices to support increased transparency and streamline office practices. She is an integral member of our activist team. Without her, I will admit, Financial Officer's Training would have been much more daunting.

Erynne Grant | Vice President CUPE Local 2081