

EXECUTIVE REPORT – VICE PRESIDENT/OFFICE UPDATE

March 25 2019

Greetings,

I have moved into the union office! If you haven't had the chance to pop over and say hello-come by-I would be happy to see you. It has been an interesting transition and the last few months were a whirlwind of activity. I am heartened that members are reaching out, asking questions and seeking advice on a variety of topics. I am always happy to help if you need assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out. As in all situations, it is better to inquire rather than operate with misinformation, disinformation or plain wrong information!

The work never ends but as we continue to grow, changes must be made to better accommodate the needs of our community. We have 650+ members at any given time, and we are growing. CUPE 2081 has 1 full time office person who is responsible for ALL of the coordination of the office AND anything labour relations related, at all times. We have an incredible team of committed advocates but the work load is truly immense. I met with various executive members over the last few months to review processes, streamline some services and target gaps to better support executive portfolios. Union positions have changed over time and we are looking at better utilization of the positions we have to ensure executive members are supported in the work they do for our community.

We have many projects planned for the union office space, including the purchase of some equipment: new chairs and a scanner/printer. The goal is to add usable workspace and digitize our historical records. We need to re-organize the office space to accommodate more people at one time and better serve the myriad of meetings we host. It is time we join the 21st century and bring our history into the digital world. This project is immense, but with commitment, time and planning, we are moving our paper records into digital format for easier access and sensible file management.

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Reviewing our processes to make sure we are accomplishing our goals was my first priority. Recruitment of new stewards and developing education supports will be one of several priority items over the next year. We need more members who are willing and able to help out. You have heard the call, and I will re-iterate it again: We Need You! If you would like the opportunity to ‘give back’, to lend a hand, please give me a call. There are many ways to contribute and education is available for those who wish to develop skills in conflict resolution, mental health supports, advocacy, and committee work.

As I transition from the Vice President role into the office full time, I reflect back on the last 3 years as your VP. We have experienced many executive member retirements and we will have more to come. It is important to honour our history and understand our place in the national labour movement. It is also good to change, to grow and to think about new ways of doing our business: union business. It is an exciting time to work at Camosun College and an exciting time to be part of a strong Canadian labour movement.

6 years ago, I began my service to our community as a member of the Lay-Off Sub Committee. I said ‘yes’ to helping and learning about stewarding. I said ‘yes’ to becoming an alternate for your Labour Management Committee. I was a table team member during the last round of bargaining and I am now your Bargaining Chair as we plan for a new collective agreement. It is incredible what can happen when you say ‘yes, I can help’.

I will run for election for the Chief Shop Steward/(Office Coordinator(Labour Relations Officer) position and I truly appreciate the many well wishes and endorsements you have taken the time to relay. Thank you-I am humbled by your kind words and continued support. I look forward to working with each of you; executive and community members alike.

In Solidarity,

Erynne Grant | Vice President
CUPE Local 2081

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