

EXECUTIVE REPORT –

July 2020

PRESIDENTS REPORT

To the membership of 2081: It was late March and the College began to hollow out our campus buildings. Most of us went home, some stayed, such as receiving and facilities staff.

Those that could began to start working from home; other members who support direct student services, such as the bookstore, recreation and the printshop were left with little or no work.

By mid-April, those working in the trades departments returned to the worksite, but working at home became the main method.

We, Erynne Grant and I, began weekly meetings with the other Union Presidents, College President Sherri Bell the VP's and various other College leadership representatives. We continue to meet every Wednesday morning with meetings scheduled through to the end of September.

At these meetings we are given College and Government updates about which direction the College is going. This is where we were able to ensure wage continuity, have our member's safe, and agreed to have our members working from home. We do not have language in our Collective Agreement that allows for remote work. However, the safety of our membership has always been our top priority and we approved remote work to support your safety. Toward the end of May the beginning of June, College budget concerns were discussed with the possibility of lay-offs coming to the College Community. Now as you know, this has become a reality.

Just as we advocated for the health and safety of our members during the height of the pandemic we have been advocating for the safe return to campus for our members.

This is the darkest time our local has gone through. Too lose part of our community with no knowledge of when you may return, I personally share your anxieties, confusion, and disappointment that we are not able to provide to our students the services that we do with pride and enthusiasm. How is it our Bookstore and Recreational Facilities remain closed while retail outlets and some recreation areas are now opening across our city; while following Provincial Health guidelines? We have been advocating for soft safe opening of these student services. Despite this the College has made the decision to not open these areas. Of note, we have the Trades programs proceeding while following the guidelines.

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Some of you are working from home and some members are coming back to work on site. While others have received some of the worst news. For these impacted members I feel absolutely gutted.

For those members receiving lay off notice, we continue to advocate for the provisions provided in our Collective Agreement. I was so looking forward to bringing our new C/A to the membership and to invoke a sense of resurgence, confidence and ownership of our contract. Now, instead, we are facing lay offs.

Of all my time as a CUPE 2081 representative or as the President of CUPE 2081 this is the most difficult situation I have found myself in. In some ways, I feel helpless and useless. This is not easy for me at all. For those that know me well, you understand. Together we will persevere and we will come out of this.

These are tough times for our membership and it will be for months to come. We know it isn't going to be easy by any means. Individually we need to stay strong and as a collective; most importantly, we need to continue to work together to come out of these dark days.

In solidarity

Keith Todd | President CUPE 2081

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to those who seek knowledge here.



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