

EXECUTIVE REPORT – COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

October 2021

Greetings CUPE 2081!

I am hopeful our members have found coming back to campus more positive than negative for each of their roles. For those members that have been working on campus throughout the pandemic, I hope that the influx of coworkers and colleagues has also been positive for you.

It has been an overwhelming, divisive year. Unlike any other year I have ever experienced. I want members to know that everyone is burnt out or on edge (me included!). I encourage everyone to approach each situation with gentleness and openness as I think we are all quite raw right now.

I think that as union members, we also need to be cognizant that divided unions are not as strong as united ones. Please remember when you're engaging with your CUPE 2081 colleagues that we are all in the same boat in the same storm – treat each other with kindness. United we can do better for everyone. When we are in a union and shift to individualistic outlooks, we are weaker and can achieve less.

On the communications front, I continue to be challenged with what this year throws at us. Employers create rifts, vaccines have created rifts, and those with outside commitments like child care or elder care are likely feeling the burn from other public sectors. I am trying to find balance but it has been a challenge to remain positive and informative.

In September I attend a CUPE-led Health and Safety basics training session. I found the session a little lack-lustre, but I recognize the importance of safety advocacy in the workplace (now more than ever!). Although I didn't get as much out of the course as I would've hoped, it was still useful to understand different perspectives in the workplace and to meet other CUPE members from across BC. In September I also researched quite a bit to prepare for writing the Orange Shirt Day CUPE-ALL. As a white settler on stolen Indigenous land, I find that communicating and advocacy can be tricky, often times uncomfortable. I think that merely feeling uncomfortable is a true privilege as a settler. Every year I learn a little more, having taken TTW, anthropology courses, and the free Indigenous courses offered through U of A have really helped, but it's just scratching the surface.

As we head into the best part of the year (in my opinion) I hope everyone can enjoy the various holidays coming up. In solidarity.

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