



# BURNABY CIVIC EMPLOYEES' UNION

## CUPE LOCAL 23

#114 – 4940 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6  
Phone: 604-298-0200 email: admin@cupe23.ca

March 27, 2020

Dear Cupe 23 Members,

I wanted to update you in regards to what the Local has been working on during the past few weeks. We have been attending Emergency Operations Center briefings and guaranteeing that the City of Burnaby is working in the best interest of its employees as well as the community we serve. We have:

- Ensured members will remain doing meaningful work and are not suffering financial loss during this time; so far no layoffs have occurred
- Made certain those members without sick benefits suffer no financial loss if required medically to self isolate or become ill from the COVID-19 virus (Corona Virus)
- Advocated on your behalf for the City to expand their *Working from Home* policy to allow more employees the opportunity
- Worked with the City on rotating and reducing staff, to provide the required social distancing for all work sites with no financial loss
- Protected all members by ensuring everyone be provided the proper personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer, hand washing stations and soap on all trucks deployed and at all offices/workplaces
- Requested the City increase communication with employees by doing more site visits where appropriate and send daily updates from the City Manager along with information sheets to all subscribers

No one could have prepared for this situation. If you have an issue at your worksite that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your Supervisor/Manager please forward your concern by calling or emailing us. We will deal with the issue confidentially and as quickly as possible.

I'm so proud of everyone that is pitching in at worksites around the City during this difficult and extraordinary time. CUPE 23 members are stepping up in this crisis and making a difference. Thank you! You may be requested by your manager to re-deploy to another worksite and we ask that you give them your full cooperation. If you can assist with covering shifts at other locations please do everything in your power to make yourself available. As CUPE 23 members we have an obligation to serve the Citizens of Burnaby and they need us now more than ever. Thank you for all you are doing to help out. The City of Burnaby has, and is, taking measures to protect our pay cheques for as long as possible. Please everyone show your appreciation and help out as much as you can to get the important work we do done.

For the foreseeable future the Local is going to be running internal meetings online via video/telephone conference and will also be looking to host our first online General Meeting on April 15, 2020 at 5:30 PM. For this to work we will need your personal email address to send

you the invite. Please send email to [admin@cupe23.ca](mailto:admin@cupe23.ca) to make sure you can participate if we don't already have your email address on file. We currently only have email addresses from about 50 % of our members and we are unable to use the City's email address that each of you have. Please pass this request along to your co-workers so we obtain as many member email addresses as possible. Going forward these are going to be vital in efforts to keep you informed.

Again, thank you for everything you are doing to provide the service necessary at this time. By working together, finding solutions and looking out for each other we will get through this pandemic stronger than ever. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime if you have any questions or concerns regarding your worksite. Be safe, be calm and take care of each other.

In solidarity,



Bruce Campbell

President

CUPE Local 23

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