



*“The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”
Albert Einstein*

CUPE BC Library Committee Report to Convention - May 2019

The CUPE BC Library Committee is a multi-sector committee representing CUPE library workers in four sectors; public libraries, K-12, colleges and universities. Our committee meets regularly to discuss the common issues facing all library workers across the province. At the October 2017 OBCM, the committee set the goals for the next term. We identified three main priorities - CUPE BC’s ongoing relationship with the BC Library Association, member engagement and health and safety tool kits. What follows is a look-back on the accomplishments of the library committee during the last year of its 2017 - 2019 term.

BC Library Association (BCLA) Conference Participation and the Relationship with BCLA

Last year, our 2018 workshop presentation on library workers as champions for democracy, featured CUPE members Kathy Boyce (CUPE Local 23), Marc Comeau (CUPE Local 401) and Fiona Brady-Lenfesty (CUPE Local 3338). In 2019 we are pleased to be a platinum sponsor of the annual BCLA Conference. We are also looking forward to meeting with our colleagues in galleries, libraries, archives and museums (known as the GLAM sector) at the first ever GLAM symposium whose theme is “Here and Now: Practical Ideas, Local Solutions.”

We will also be participating in the BC Library Trustees’ Association’s *Public Libraries Summit* which will bring together trustees, politicians from all levels of government, frontline workers, library directors and community allies to discuss “Future Focused Public Libraries: value, investment, and results.”

The committee met with Annette de Faveri, Executive Director of BCLA, to discuss the future of the organization and to give feedback on the direction that BCLA is going.

Word Vancouver - September 25, 2018

CUPE Local 391 celebrated literacy, libraries and library workers at WORD Vancouver, Western Canada's largest celebration of literacy and reading in 2018. WORD is held at Library Square in Vancouver every September, and CUPE Local 391 is a long time sponsor and participant. This year the local was extremely proud to welcome CUPE Local 374 President Shireen Clark, and two of their own members Danielle LaFrance and Jane Whittingham at the CUPE Local 391 stage (aka the CUPE BC trailer!) who read from their published books. Rosie the Reader was also present along with other local 391 volunteers to promote the great work our unionized members do everyday. Thanks to the Library Committee for some great handouts!

BC Summer Reading Club 2019

We are so excited to co-sponsor this year's Summer Reading Club. It is BC's largest literacy program for children and families that will be in every region of the province in 200+ communities. This program not only celebrates the great work our members do in delivering these services; it also connects members from all sectors to reading and literacy.

In 2018 BC public library staff made over 5,100 visits to schools to introduce and promote BC SRC and to continue to build positive relationships between schools and public libraries. Work by library staff across the Province ensures that BC SRC responds to the unique needs of diverse communities. This "ground-level" approach makes BC SRC a responsive, community-driven and library designed program.

Organizing

Congratulations to CUPE Local 402-02 who welcomed 48 librarians at Surrey Public Library! We continue to make organizing a standing issue on the committee's agenda. To work with the Organizing Department to map and plan organizing new library workers into our CUPE family.

Political Action - Poverty Reduction

Last year CUPE BC pulled together a focus group of library workers to submit feedback to government regarding the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Our members shared their experiences working and observing poverty in their communities at the same time, for

some of them, experiencing poverty themselves. You can find our submission online, under the list of submissions for the Poverty Reduction Plan.

Health and safety continues to be top of mind for library workers in all sectors. For their next term, the committee plans to dig deeper into a variety of issues that face our members - compassion fatigue, precarity, mental health, violence in the workplace, and the opioid crisis to name a few.

The committee would like to thank all staff for their support and ongoing dedication to our sector.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Ranalletta, Co-Chair
Rose Jurkic, Co-Chair
Sabina Burdett
Marc Comeau
Heather Goldik
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Aliza Nevarie
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Leah Stubbings
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May 2019

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