



CUPE CONNECTION

SUMMER 2026

REMINDERS

Wear Purple Wednesdays

remind us, that visibility matters. Small acts of solidarity help build unity across our large and diverse local, no matter where we are located.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please check your e-mail over the summer for updates about bargaining and mobilizing.

Check **CUPE 5678** website and **Facebook** page to stay up to date with current events.

SUMMER BREAK

Wishing our amazing **CUPE 5678** members a very happy summer.

CUPE 5678 executive officers, stewards and representatives continue to work over the summer months. Please call the office, or email, or contact an executive member if you have any questions and we are happy to assist.

Hello Members,

Recently, we attended the CUPE Ontario Convention, where delegates from across the province came together to discuss the issues facing workers and our union. A new CUPE Ontario President was elected, and there were many productive discussions about the challenges and opportunities ahead.



At the education caucus with other OSBCU members we looked toward the fall and preparations are continuing to ramp up, and we expect to hit the ground running in September.

Locally, we remain deeply concerned about the more than 33 full-time equivalent (FTE) position cuts announced by the Board. It is disappointing to see jobs being eliminated at a time when increased staffing is needed to support students and maintain quality services. Throughout this process, your union has worked hard to share as much information as possible with members and to remain transparent about the impacts of these cuts.

Now more than ever, we need the solidarity and support of our membership. Together, we must stand united as we fight back against these reductions and work to protect the jobs and services our communities depend on. Our strength comes from our collective voice, and by standing together, we can continue to advocate for our members and prevent further losses.

Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and solidarity.

In solidarity,

Jacob Casselman

President CUPE 5678



Vice President Report

By: Angela Parks-Gibson

Over the past few months, we have continued to face challenges. Through it all, the strength of our local has come from the care, commitment, and collective voice of our members. Whether on the worksite, in meetings, or in conversations with one another, we have shown that when we stay connected and support each other, we are stronger together.

In recent months, we have worked to keep communication open, encourage participation, and strengthen our connections across the membership. We have also continued our mobilization efforts by trying to bring members together, encouraging

involvement, and building the collective energy needed to support our shared priorities. This work is essential, because solidarity is not only something we speak about in difficult moments; it is something we build every day through trust, respect, action, and a willingness to stand together.

I want to give a shout out to our Mobilization committee members who have worked so hard to get us to the 65% strike pledge goal. They have been champions working late nights making phone calls, sending texts and emails to reach out to every member. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I want to recognize the many members who have stepped forward to support one another, attend meetings, raise issues, participate in mobilization efforts, and stay engaged in the life of our local. Your involvement matters. Every conversation, every act of support, and every effort to stand up for fairness and dignity in our workplace helps strengthen our union and our shared purpose.

As we move forward, I encourage all of us to continue building on that foundation. By staying informed, involved, and united, we can meet the challenges ahead with confidence. Our strength has always been in our solidarity; our willingness to stand together not only for ourselves, but for each other and for the values that define our union.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication, your support for one another, and your commitment to our local. It is an honour to serve as your vice president, and I look forward to continuing this work together in unity and solidarity.

Remember, CUPE workers keep our communities running.

CUPE is Canada's largest labour union. With over 800,000 members across Canada in 11 sectors, the largest sectors being health care workers, education support workers and municipal service workers.

More information on the different sectors can be found at

<https://cupe.ca/sectors-work>

There may be different sectors, but we are united in our fight for fair pay, good benefits, and safe, healthy workplaces.

Update on the General Membership Meeting April 18, 2026

Unfortunately, we did not have quorum at our last General Membership meeting in Smiths Falls. This is the third GMM that we have not had quorum.

In the **CUPE 5678** By-Laws, it states, "quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting shall be **35 members**, including at least fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Council".

Next GMM will be in the fall, and we hope to see you there, if not in person then please consider participating via TEAMS.

CUPE Ontario Division Convention Report, By Angela Parks-Gibson.

Attending the CUPE Ontario Division Convention was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together as workers across this province. Delegates from locals big and small gathered with a shared goal: to strengthen our union, defend public services, and stand up for one another.

Throughout convention, there were important discussions about the realities we are all facing in all our workplaces; staffing shortages, increased workloads, and the strain placed on both workers and the services we provide. These issues are not isolated. They are happening across Ontario, and it was clear that members in all sectors are feeling the impact.

What stood out most to me was how strong the message of solidarity was. Repeatedly, we heard that real change happens when members are engaged, informed, and connected; not just through emails, but through meaningful, face-to-face conversations. That really reinforced the work we are doing here in CUPE 5678 with our CAT network, will have impact on getting our messaging around quickly.

Convention is where our union's direction is shaped. Delegates debated and voted on resolutions that will guide CUPE Ontario's priorities moving forward on everything from defending workers' rights to pushing back against government decisions that change our jobs and the communities we serve.



One of the strongest takeaways for me is that we need to continue building our strength at the worksite level. When members feel informed and included, we build confidence; and that is where our power comes from. Whether it is through conversations at your school, participation in rallies, or simply supporting one another day-to-day, every action matters.

There was also a strong focus on holding the government accountable. Delegates spoke clearly about the need to challenge legislation and decisions that threaten workers' rights and public services.

Most importantly, convention reminded me that we are not alone. Across Ontario, CUPE members are organizing, mobilizing, and standing together. That solidarity gives us strength; not just at convention, but back in our worksites every single day.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear:

- Stay connected
- Keep communicating
- Continue building strong relationships at every worksite
- Stand in solidarity with one another

Because when we are united, we are stronger; and that is how we win.

In Solidarity,

Angela Parks-Gibson, Vice President of Education

CUPE Ontario has a new President & Secretary-Treasurer.

At the CUPE Ontario Convention held in Toronto at the end of May, CUPE Ontario delegates elected a new President, Yolanda McClean and Secretary-Treasurer, Dawn Bellerose.



Fred Hahn presented his last President's report at the convention, after 16 years as President of CUPE Ontario.



Members of CUPE 5678:

A **banking information form for strike pay** is now available through your Communication Action Team Representative (CAT).

We are asking members to complete this form as soon as possible so we can proactively set up direct deposit information in the payment system **in the event strike pay becomes necessary**.

During the last round of bargaining, responsibility for processing strike pay information was unexpectedly placed in the hands of Local 5678 with very little time available to complete the work.

As a result, the process became a significant undertaking under tight timelines and there were some delays and errors in members receiving strike pay. This was not the fault of Local 5678, but it highlighted the importance of having information set up in advance.

Our goal is to ensure that, should we reach that point, members receive strike pay as promptly and smoothly as possible. To make that happen, we need to prepare now.

Please connect with your CAT to obtain and complete the banking information form at your earliest opportunity.

Forms will only be accepted via email to secretary.treasurer@cupe5678.ca or can be sent/dropped off at the CUPE Office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sheila Robertson
Secretary – Treasurer

RETIREMENT CORNER

Congratulations to the Retirees!

***Never underestimate the difference you made and the lives you touched.
Enjoy your next chapter.***

Happy Retirement.

Name	Service	Job Description	Job Location
<i>Debi Steele</i>	<i>Nov-07-2013 to Mar-28-2026</i>	<i>Educational Assistant</i>	<i>Laggan Public School</i>
<i>Kathy Bushfield</i>	<i>Jul-08-2024 to Apr-30-2026</i>	<i>SEA Admin Support Assist.</i>	<i>Board Office</i>
<i>Russell Snetsinger</i>	<i>Dec-06-1993 to May-23-2026</i>	<i>Technologist</i>	<i>Cornwall Collegiate V.S.</i>
<i>Maureen Knox</i>	<i>Oct-26-1998 to June 27-2026</i>	<i>Educational Assistant</i>	<i>Front Of Yonge Elem. School</i>
<i>Angela Feres</i>	<i>Sep-21-1998 to June 27-2026</i>	<i>IA - Academic</i>	<i>Almonte & District High School</i>
<i>Lise Butzer</i>	<i>Nov-16-1998 to Jun-27-2026</i>	<i>Educational Assistant</i>	<i>Tagwi Secondary School</i>
<i>Caroline Nowlan</i>	<i>May-15-2003 to Jun-27-2026</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Merrickville Public School</i>
<i>Caroline Roy</i>	<i>Jun-29-2001 to Jun-29-2026</i>	<i>Lead Custodian</i>	<i>Tagwi Secondary School</i>
<i>Gary Kenney</i>	<i>Mar-05-1984 to Aug-01-2026</i>	<i>Head Custodian</i>	<i>Rideau District High School</i>
<i>Jacqueline Prieur</i>	<i>May-03-1999 to Aug-15-2026</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Glengarry District High School</i>
<i>Judith MacDonald</i>	<i>Aug-27-2007 to Aug-31-2026</i>	<i>Secondary Office Assistant</i>	<i>Glengarry District High School</i>
<i>Cathy Lalonde</i>	<i>Apr-06-1999 to Aug-31-2026</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Cornwall Collegiate V.S.</i>
<i>Michael Levasseur</i>	<i>Nov-20-2006 to Aug-31-2026</i>	<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Cornwall Collegiate V.S.</i>
<i>John Cree</i>	<i>Mar-01-2010 to Aug-31-2026</i>	<i>Technologist</i>	<i>Thousand Islands Sec. School</i>

Communication Committee Update



The communications committee has chosen Winchester Catering and Events to host our retirement dinner October 22, 2026. If you are retiring during the 25-26 school year, please keep an eye out for your invitation and gift selection catalogue.

We are diligently working to get the 26-27 school year agendas ready to be distributed to members in September.

Julia Gauthier
Communication Committee Chair
Recording Secretary
julia.gauthier@cupe5678.ca



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, STEWARDS, REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES

Term * December 1st, 2025 to November 2028 Term ** December 1st, 2024 to November 2027

2495 Parkedale Ave., Unit 3B, Brockville, ON K6V 3H2

www.cupe5678.ca

Phone: CUPE Office Brockville (613) 342-0434 or Toll Free 1-877-342-2873

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (7)

President:	Jacob Casselman * Jacob.casselman@cupe5678.ca	Courier - Full Time Release- 12 months (613) 342-0434 CUPE Office - (613) 246-7031 Cell
Education Vice-President	Angela Parks-Gibson ** Angela.parks-gibson@cupe5678.ca	Educational Assistant Perth & District Collegiate, Perth
Education Vice-President	Lorrie Somerville ** Lorrie.somerville@cupe5678.ca	Educational Assistant Lyn Public School, Lyn
Transportation Vice-Pres. (Unit 5678-1/ STEO)	Carrie Laflamme * Carrie.laflamme@cupe5678.ca	GIS Administrator Student Transp. of Eastern Ontario, Prescott
Secretary-Treasurer	Sheila Robertson ** Sheila.robertson@cupe5678.ca	Secondary Office Administrator - Full Time Release- 12 months (613) 342-0434 CUPE Office, Brockville
Recording Secretary	Julia Gauthier * Julia.gauthier@cupe5678.ca	Financial Assistant Thousand Islands S.S., Brockville
Chief Steward	Sheena Hagerman ** Sheena.hagerman@cupe5678.ca	Itinerant Student Support Worker - Full Time Release – 12 months (613) 342-0434 CUPE Office - (613) 640-2748 Cell

STEWARDS (5)

<u>Steward</u> - Transportation (Unit 5678-1/STEO)	Craig Gallagher ** Craig.gallagher@cupe5678.ca	Transportation Planner Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario
<u>Steward</u> -T.R. Leger/Alternative Ed	Tammy Cooper ** Tammy.cooper@cupe5678.ca	Instructional Assistant – Academic Char-Lan DHS, Williamstown
<u>Steward</u> – Classroom Support	Amie Roy * amie.roy@cupe5678.ca	Registered Early Childhood Educator Lyn Public School, Lyn
<u>Steward</u> _ – Facilities & IT Services	Heather Adams * heather.adams@cupe5678.ca	Lead Custodian <i>Nationview Public School</i>
<u>Steward</u> – Office/Clerical	Karen Gallagher ** Karen.gallagher@cupe5678.ca	Elementary Office Administrator Vanier Public School, Brockville

REPRESENTATIVES (3)

<u>Representative</u> – Health & Safety	Tanya Henry * tanya.henry@cupe5678.ca	Lead Custodian South Branch Public School
<u>Representative</u> – 1 st WSIB/Injured Worker/RTW	Nancy Ripley * Nancy.ripley@cupe5678.ca	Registered Early Childhood Educator Vanier Public School, Brockville
<u>Representative</u> – 2 nd WSIB//Injured Worker/RTW	Thomas Brown ** thomas.brown@cupe5678.ca	Custodian South Grenville District High

TRUSTEES (3)

<u>Trustee</u> (Term to 2027) #2	Vicki Sargeant Vicki.Sargeant@cupe5678.ca	Elementary Office Administrator Maynard Public School
<u>Trustee</u> (Term to 2026) #1	Elsie Day Elsie.day@cupe5678.ca	Casual (RETIRED)
<u>Trustee</u> (Term to 2028) #3	Shelly Crowe Shelly.crowe@cupe5678.ca	Secondary Office Administrator Gananoque Secondary School