

The Missing Link

Local 217's Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE

Hello CUPE 217 Members,

We are pleased to be bringing back the quarterly newsletter!

This will be a way for us to educate and connect with members. Please know this newsletter will be sent out over personal emails, or by mail if requested.

If you have any ideas for the newsletter, or are interested in contributing, please let the Executive Board know (217cupe@gmail.com).

Please also take a moment to visit our [website](#). We are working hard to update the information to keep everything available and accessible. If you have not already done so, please provide us with your personal email on the home page.

Have a safe and happy summer!

In Solidarity,
Your L217 Executive Board

Events

General Membership Meeting (GMM)

Friday September 25, 2026 | 6:30-8:00p.m.
Central Library/Zoom

General Membership Meeting (GMM) & Elections

Friday November 13, 2026 | 6:30-8:00p.m.
Central Library (in-person only)

Special Meeting - Bylaws

TDB | Central Library (in-person only)

Special Meeting - Negotiations Ratification

TDB | Details TBD (in-person only)

Check out <https://217.cupe.ca/> for more details

Executive Board

President:

Ashleigh Suter

Vice-President:

Courtney Robinson

Secretary:

Margaret Walker

Treasurer:

Teegan Muggridge

Head Steward:

Liz Perkins

EDI Member-at-Large:

Mallory McMahon

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CUPE NEWS

June is National Indigenous History Month

Excerpt from CUPE National

CUPE stands in solidarity with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations and is committed to continuing to work toward reconciliation, and to respect our ongoing treaty relationships. CUPE acknowledges the ongoing, fierce advocacy of our Indigenous members and Indigenous communities across the country. June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day, on which CUPE celebrates the heritage and vibrant cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, and their outstanding contributions to our communities.

Find out more about CUPE's ongoing efforts, or what CUPE locals and members can do here:

<https://cupe.ca/events/national-indigenous-peoples-day>

Wildfires in Canada.

Excerpt from CUPE National.

As wildfires continue to devastate communities across Canada, CUPE is calling on chartered organizations and members to support its **Natural Disaster Relief Fund**. More than 800 wildfires are burning across the country, with Indigenous and northern communities facing disproportionate impacts from evacuations and prolonged displacement. Read the [full letter](#) for donation details and information on how to contribute.

CUPE members are experiencing wildfires that are increasing in number and severity. These fires and the smoke they create harm everyone's physical and mental health, especially equity-seeking groups like Indigenous populations and people with disabilities.

Read more about H&S and Wildfire Smoke [here](#).

Bylaw Check – Special Meetings & Quorum

Bylaws can be found on the [website](#). ♦

Section 5(b) – Special Membership Meetings

Special membership meetings of Local 217 may be required, and shall be called by the Executive Board or may be requested in writing by no fewer than 15 members. The President shall immediately advise members when a special meeting is called, and ensure that all members receive at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice of the special meeting, the subject(s) to be discussed, the date, time and location. No business shall be transacted at the special meeting other than that for which the meeting is called and notice given.

A special meeting can be called for any reason, but the most common being for Collective Agreement ratification, and Bylaw amendment approvals.

Nothing but the subject at hand can be discussed in these meetings.

Meeting dates and topics can be found on the home page of our website. ♦

Section 5(c) - Quorum

The minimum number of members required to be in attendance for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting shall be twelve (12) members, plus at least three (3) members of the Executive Board.

Without the membership, the Local cannot run. We vote on all actionable union matters from budgets to training at our General Membership Meetings (GMMs), and without quorum we cannot run meetings, or make decisions for our local.

Our last GMM attendance was 10% of our membership, which has been the highest turn-out for 2026. That means **10% of the membership is voting for 100% of the membership.**

GMMs are hybrid; both in-person (at Central), and virtually over Zoom. We would love to see more folks at our meetings in whatever way you can show up.

Your voice and vote are important, and we want to hear it! ♦

EDI Corner



Reflections on a Racism Workshop

By: Alma Mux-Wahl

In this country American means white. Everybody else has to hyphenate" Toni Morrison. That quote was typed out on a piece of paper, and stuck to the wall of the conference room. The room had multiple quotes spread all throughout it, pasted on walls and columns. I had read all the other quotes in this conference room, why did this one make me stop? Even as the coordinators called us back to sit down to end the exercise, I had the quote playing in my head. Toni Morrison was talking about America but I could change it to Canada and the quote would still be as hard hitting.

Whiteness is the standard and the status quo. Anyone who is not, is caught in a never-ending cycle of fighting to justify their voice and their existence.

This might make you feel uncomfortable reading this, it might make you want to justify or give reasons to say this is not the case. This discomfort is exactly why discussions of race and equality are so important in our workplace. Sitting in discomfort instead of trying to avoid these conversations is how we move forward. When the term "the work" is used in conversations about racism, it can seem broad and unapproachable. The truth is it starts with listening, sitting there, and taking in the experiences of another.

This workshop I did that. I sat and listened to others talk about issues with racism that their union was going through,

personal experiences of racism, and questions of how do we change this.

The coordinators did not have easy answers for these questions, instead they posed more questions back to us. Sometimes they even let us be silent and let our conversations sink in and take the time they needed. Our union has an EDI committee, and it is not just a checkmark on a list. The committee is here because BIPOC workers are here, and your experiences carry weight and importance. If you have issues or experiences, we are here to support and amplify. As a BIPOC woman I cannot leave my experiences at the door because I carry them with me in all avenues of my life. I want to take a moment to say I see you and I honour your experiences. Please know this is the first of many ways that we will be letting you know that your experiences here matter, and we are committed to you, our fellow coworkers. ♦

Training/Education Opportunities

Workshops hosted by CUPE

Did you know CUPE hosts many different types of workshop, including online offerings? We encourage members to participate in workshops of interest to them. Please reach out to the Executive Board if you find a workshop you would like to attend. Workshops do fill fast, so keep your eye on the calendar for new offerings.

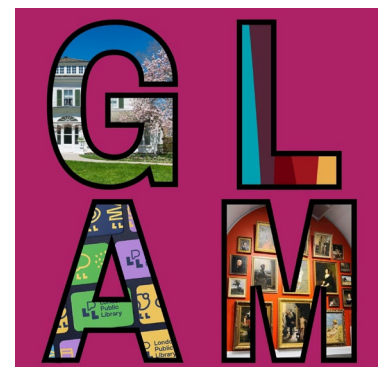
A few to highlight:

Conflict Skills for Union Activists
November 29, 2026 1-4pm (MST) ([online](#))

Duty of Fair Representation
August 18, 2026 5-8pm (CST) ([online](#))

Using our Power at Election Time
September 14, 2026 6-9pm (EST) ([online](#))

Find CUPE's Education Workshop Calendar at
<https://cupe.ca/mrm-union-education/workshops>



Ways to Connect

Website:
<https://217.cupe.ca/>

Gmail:
217cupe@gmail.com

Stewards:
cupe217stewards@gmail.com