



# BULLETIN

February 6, 2025

Hello CUPE 116 Members,

Bargaining for the renewal of our collective agreement is fast approaching, with our current agreement set to expire on **March 31, 2025**.

At the January 2025 General Membership Meeting, seven (7) candidates were nominated for the bargaining committee. An in-person election will be held on **February 19, 2025**.

### Voting Details:

**Location:** 2360 East Mall ( Room 102) - Chemical and Biological Engineering Building (CHBE)

**Time:** 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**You must vote for five (5) bargaining committee representatives.**

**\*\*\*No Plumping Allowed\*\*\***

**Definition: You must use all five of your votes—you cannot vote for fewer or more than five candidates or your ballot will be deemed spoiled.**

The Union has reached out to the University and you should make every effort to vote before or after your shift, or during your break. If necessary, you may vote during your shift provided that you keep the time to a minimum and have discussed with your manager/supervisor.

As a reminder the local previously sent a bargaining survey link via email early in January. If you haven't completed it yet, please take a few moments to do so.

Your input is essential in guiding our bargaining mandate. Limited paper copies are also available for pickup at the Union Office (#206 - 2389 Health Sciences Mall). If you require a paper copy you will need to set up an appointment and arrange for pick up during normal business hours. We are no longer accepting walk-ins.

Please submit only **one** survey.

There is significant work ahead, and we encourage members to get involved. If you're interested in supporting the union, please contact us at [cupe116@cupe116.com](mailto:cupe116@cupe116.com) or 604-827-1705.

Thank you for your participation and support!



# University of British Columbia Employees CUPE Local 116

## BARGAINING COMMITTEE ELECTION 7am TO 7pm, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 Chemical and Biological Engineering Building (CHBE) 2360 East Mall – Room 102

Nominees are presented in  
the order of their nomination



**PRITESH PADHIAR**

I've been a proud member of CUPE 116 since 2004, working as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with a Red Seal in machining. I am an active shop steward, who has spent time working in the office to help serve different areas of our broad membership. I want to continue that work as a member of the bargaining committee.

I have been assisting with the Schedule B reclassification and compensation review, and am the only representative of the technician group running for the bargaining committee. I am eager to do more to help the membership and feel I would be a valuable member of the bargaining committee.

In solidarity - Pritesh



**RICHARD GEE**

Greetings members! With your vote I will work hard to support the efforts of our Bargaining Committee to deliver on our goals for our next contract.

I currently serve our membership as a Shop Steward, representative on the Contracting-Out-Committee and a Trustee for the Local. I will bring this experience, along with my participation in the last round of Bargaining to support and assist our bargaining team.

Thank you for your time. Please vote in February!

In solidarity - Richard Gee



**ELINOR MORRIS**

Elinor was first elected a Vice President-at-Large in 2021 and currently serves as Acting Recording Secretary of the CUPE 116 Executive. Prior to that, Elinor was a Bookstore Shop Steward as well as a member of the CUPE 116 Society and served on the Grievance Committee. Elinor chairs the Bookstore/Campus Mail Local Working Committee, co-chairs the Contracting Out Committee and serves on the Accessibility Improvement Working Group.

Elinor was recently honored to be a successful nominee to the CUPE BC International Solidarity Committee and looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve both on-campus as well as at the provincial level. Elinor worked last year on the bargaining of the Letter of Understanding that brought the Accessibility Shuttle Drivers into our main agreement, which has led to a desire to further serve the needs of our members on the Bargaining Committee for that agreement in the new round of bargaining.

Elinor wishes to thank everyone who continues show their support with their vote. UBC WORKS BECAUSE WE DO.



**ALIA ABU-SHARIFE**

I began my journey at UBC in 1999 at the UBC Bookstore. My path with the Union started a decade ago when I joined the Local Working Committee, and I have proudly served as a Shop Steward for just over a year. In 2024, I was fortunate to be selected for the In-Office Stewards program, which ran from July to December. During this time, I gained invaluable experience and had the opportunity to participate in various meetings and activities, including those related to the Attendance Program, investigations, intakes, and more.

My passion for people and unions has always been at the core of my work, and being a Shop Steward representing CUPE 116 has truly been an honor. I was recently nominated to the Bargaining Committee, and it would be a great privilege to serve our members on this committee if selected.

In Solidarity - Alia Abu-Sharife



**MIKE LAING**

I have been with UBC since 2018 working in the Sheetmetal shop. I became a shop steward 6 months ago and have really enjoyed meeting other members and hearing their concerns in the workplace and learning from other union stewards during our meetings.

I have been involved in many in my short time as a steward and have learned of the many ways in which the union can support our members. I am advocating for better retirement benefits to better support our members after they retire after all the time they have spent at UBC and staggered shift starts so members can beat the traffic and spend less time getting to and from work.

In my time here I have completed the EOI subhead training and regularly stepped in to help out in the office. I am also the co-chair of our JOHSC committee and promote safety for workers in the field. In the community I have coached youth sports for both my kids, and also have been a soccer referee for 37 years. I would love your support and will work hard to advocate your concerns at the next bargaining. - Thank you - Mike Laing



**ROGER NEWELL**

With over 20 years as a member of CUPE 116, I have a deep commitment to advocating for workers' rights. I was raised in a CUPW family and have always understood the significance of fighting for better working conditions and human rights. I started my UBC career as a cook at multiple locations, then transitioned first to housekeeper, then building service worker. These experiences gave me a broad understanding of various issues throughout SHCS. member

In addition to my work at UBC, I am an active member of the Vancouver Tenants Union, where we advocate for tenants' rights. This, as well as my other community activism. This will bring a well-rounded perspective to the bargaining table. As a former Shop Steward, I have gained invaluable experience through union-management interactions, and I continue to be involved in standing up for my fellow members.

I am running for the 2025 Bargaining Committee because of the effects that inflation and housing costs are having on me, on my coworkers and all members of CUPE 116, who are struggling to make ends meet. With the importance of these negotiations on the line, I am ready to fight for the best possible contract for all of us.



**RIGEL ABANES**

I've been with UBC for ten years now. I started with Food Services and did summer stints with Student Housing; the last seven years I have been working at the Bookstore.

My involvement in the Union is rooted in my belief that all of us should have a workplace that provides gainful and progressive employment, and a fair, inclusive and respectable working relationship within UBC. I have been an active proponent for our members as their representative in all Union business matters. Furthermore, I have served as a member of our local's Executive Committee, supporting the efforts of our Union and the provisions of our Collective Agreement.

I would like to continue being your advocate as a member of the Bargaining Committee. Thank you for your support.

**PLEASE VOTE!**