

## Teamsters at the Abbotsford School District Vote 81% in Favor of New Contract

January 13, 2022 - The Union Bargaining Committee and members of Teamsters Local 31 employed at the Abbotsford School District celebrated on January 12 after their new 3-year collective agreement was voted in favour by a margin of 430 to 98.

The new contract will go into force immediately, and wage increases will be retroactive to July 1, 2022. In addition, the union members will receive guaranteed general wage increases of 11.24% up to 13.49%, pending cost of living adjustments (COLA).

A Labour Market Adjustment of 1.25% to 1.75% was negotiated for Custodians, Administrative Employees, Youth Care Workers, and Education Assistants to attract workers to the school district with relative credentials and skillset.



Sis. Marilyn Chang and Tatijana Yung with Business Agent Lance Matricardi at the contract vote.

"Thank you to all members for your patience and support throughout collective bargaining," said Business Agent Lance Matricardi, "our union committee is proud of the improvements that we made for all Teamsters at the district."

Also, the Union successfully negotiated more pension contributions, in addition to an improvement to sick and personal business leave. The employer has agreed with the Union to focus on providing additional hours and revisiting Education Assistant (EA) job descriptions, requirements and wage scale to help address the EA shortage.

Contract negotiations began in May 2022. The elected bargaining committee, chaired by Business Agent Lance Matricardi and co-chaired by Business Agent Mike Hennessy, held a dozen meetings within seven months. In November, the committee created bargaining momentum pressing the employer committee resulting in finalizing a memorandum of agreement in December.

Supporting the chair and co-chair was an elected, experienced team of union bargaining members who reflected the diversity of the numerous job classifications within the school district. The united committee worked tirelessly and meticulously throughout the contract process and is recognized as follows:

## Leslie Carter, Yvonne Funk, Jaret Wiebe, Derrick Anderson, Alicia Kroeker, Michelle Doerksen, Chris Kelly

## Thank you for your service!



Chair Lance Matricardi, co-chair Mike Hennessy and the bargaining committee presenting the memorandum of agreement to the membership in Abbotsford, BC.

"The elected bargaining committee members were focused, energetic and engaged and were an excellent service to the membership and the Union," says Business Agent Mike Hennessy.

The Teamsters collective agreement at the Abbotsford School District proudly covers more than 1,100 support staff members, including Maintenance and Trades, Custodial, Clerical, Instructional Support, Information Technology, Education Assistants, Indigenous Support Workers, Youth Care Workers, and Bus Drivers.

"Congratulations to all members and the bargaining committee on a job well done," said President Stan Hennessy, "the new contract provides our members with positive growth and a strong future."

Teamsters Local Union No. 31 proudly represents more than 8,200 hard-working members in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory including general truck drivers, courier, public services, warehouse and

grocery workers, transit, coach, school bus drivers and monitors, lumber, pulp and paper workers and limousine chauffeurs, since 1936.