

**SEA ISLAND ELEMENTARY OFFICE**

1891 Wellington Crescent, Richmond BC, V7B 1G6  
Tel: 604-273-1651 Fax: 604-273-1651 [cupe716.ca](http://cupe716.ca)

April 30, 2022

**ANNOUNCEMENT ON LOCAL ELECTIONS**

Local 716 Election Committee consists of Trustees Marney Booth, Suzzan Poppell, and Matthew Lensen as per the bylaws which state:

**Section 6** The President shall appoint an election committee comprised of Trustees and assistants as required. (*Article B.3.1 of Local Bylaws*)

The committee met on several dates and determined that the format of the election in the Bylaws provide for an in-person election to be held on the day of the Annual General Meeting in May. Given the ongoing pandemic, this format was found to be untenable.

The National Representative shared with the Committee a memorandum from the National President Mark Hancock which stated the following:

**Purpose**

In these extraordinary times it is important to maintain good governance, accountability, and transparency. With this in mind, I am providing the following updated guidelines to help address questions of compliance with local bylaws and CUPE's National Constitution.

**Electronic Voting**

Where adopting motions to conduct the regular business of the Union, such as for decisions of the Executive Board or Executive Committee, voting can be done via email. Where voting must be secret, such as ratifications or job action mandates, the local may use a secure and reliable electronic voting platform.

**Nominations and Elections**

Wherever possible, local elections should occur within the same timeframe as laid out in local bylaws.

Nominations that might normally occur at a membership meeting can be done by email, and elections can be conducted electronically using a secure platform.

The Committee discussed various options and agreed to have the vote be held both electronically and in-person, in order to expand the franchise to as many voters as possible.

The Committee elected Suzzan Poppell to serve as the Election Officer.

Accordingly, I advise of the following process which will serve as the guidelines only for this election, and shall not be taken to replace any of the regulations or procedures applicable in normal circumstances:

**1. Dates of the Election**

Electronic: The election is hereby set to begin electronically on **May 18, 2022 at 9:00 am** when ballots will be sent to all members who register to vote electronically, and voting will be open **until May 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm**. The system will send multiple emails remind you to vote in that period.

In-Person: The in-person balloting will be held on one day only - **May 19, 2022--** at the Union Office (Sea Island Elementary, 1891 Wellington Crescent, Richmond BC, V7B 1G6) **between 12:30 pm and 6:00 pm**.

**2. Nominations**

Nominations are open from **April 27th through to May 2, 2022, at 8:00pm** and nominations can be sent by email to the Election Officer at [electionofficer@cupe716.ca](mailto:electionofficer@cupe716.ca). To provide for maximum privacy during the election, this email will be accessible only to the Election Officer, and all content will be destroyed following a successful motion to destroy ballots.

Nominations will be posted on the Cupe 716 Website under Election Nominations <https://cupe716.ca/cupe-716-votes-2022/> at the end of each day.

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You should state your name and the name of the person you are nominating and the position for which they are being nominated. A person may be nominated for multiple positions, but may only hold one. After the close of nominations, the Election Officer will contact everyone nominated and confirm whether they wish to let their name stand. The Election Officer will then prepare the list of all candidates for all the positions, and the ballots using the Simply Voting campaign, and physical ballots to be used in the in-person election.

**3. Voter Registration**

Members who wish to vote, nominate someone for elected office, or stand for elected office, must register as a voter by completing the registration form by following the link below, which will also be available on the Local's website at <https://cupe716.ca/cupe-716-votes-2022/>  
<https://forms.office.com/r/vvbhkr9vW8>

***NOTE: VOTER REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW AND WILL CLOSE ON MAY 13th, 2022 at 6PM.***

4. All initiated members of Local 716 in good standing are eligible to vote, nominate someone other than themselves for an elected position, and stand for election for any of the advertised positions.
5. Pursuant provisions of the local bylaws, a member in good standing has signed a unioncard, paid their initiation fee (a nominal fee of \$10) and was initiated in-person at a membership meeting by swearing or affirming an oath that states:  
*"I promise to support and obey the Constitution of this Union, to work to improve the economic and social conditions of other members and other workers, to defend and work to improve the democratic rights and liberties of workers and that I will not purposely or knowingly harm or assist in harming another member of the Union."*
6. Given that it will not be possible to initiate members who were recently hired or not yet initiated, the act of registering to vote will serve to fulfill the requirements of membership and initiation as required in the bylaws.

**7. Positions Up for Elections:****Union Officials (2-year term)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Recording Secretary

**Shop Steward (1-year term)**

- Administrative Assistant
- Educational Assistant
- Information Technology
- Maintenance
- Operations
- Para Educator
- Transportation

**Other**

- Trustee (3-year term)
- Sgt-at-Arms

*Duties and descriptions of each of the positions listed above can be found in the appendix of the bylaws available online or by requesting it from the Union Office*

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8. **Get to know the Candidates**

The period between **April 28, 2022 and the election May 18-20, 2022** will be an opportunity for candidates to campaign and for the members to get to know them.

All candidates may submit a digital photo and a write-up about themselves in PDF format, as an election poster, which will be posted on the local's website on a first-come, first-serve basis by Matthew Lensen, National Representative CUPE, by email at [mlensen@cupe.ca](mailto:mlensen@cupe.ca)

9. **Run-offs**

As the bylaws call for election by simple majority which requires one candidate to receive 50%+1 of the votes before they are elected, it may be necessary to have run-offs. In the event of run-offs being necessary, we will announce the dates and times following the first round of balloting.

Once winners are known in each of the categories, the Election Officer will notify all the candidates and the National Representative and the results will be posted online.

10. **Scrutineers**

Candidates may appoint scrutineers by notifying the Election Officer.



**Suzzan Poppell, Election Officer**

[electionofficer@cupe716.ca](mailto:electionofficer@cupe716.ca)