



50

John Burrows

Matthew McKay

LOCAL / SECTION LOCALE

PRESIDENT / PRÉSIDENT(E)

RECORDING SECRETARY / SECRÉTAIRE-ARCHIVISTE

#201 - 2736 Quadra Street, B.C. V8T 4E6

November 21, 2023

Sisters and Brothers;

It is with mixed emotions I am writing to formally announce my retirement as President of CUPE Local 50. It was a difficult decision to not seek re-election but it is time to hand over the reins to a new generation.

I began working for the City of Victoria 46 years ago. Like many of you I worked in several departments, Sanitation, Roads, Parks, Street Cleaning and lastly as Supervisor of Sanitation. I have spent 35 years as a member of the CUPE Local 50 Executive Board, 29 of those years as your President. I am thankful for the memories and opportunities the Union has given me.

No leader accomplishes anything alone. I would like to thank my fellow Executive Board Members for their hard work and commitment to the Union. We are only as strong as our members have made us. CUPE Local 50 has had membership support whether it was for sponsoring a community event, an international solidarity or social justice initiative and even in more difficult matters like strike votes. In each instance the membership handed the Executive a strong mandate to proceed. During collective bargaining as your spokesperson, it was always less stressful knowing the Bargaining Committee had the strength of the entire membership behind us. The results are lasting.

I look back with pride on what has been accomplished. All CUPE Local 50 collective agreements were negotiated without a single concession and although (and probably because) there were strong strike mandates from the membership, there were never any actual strikes. CUPE Local 50 used to rent a small two room office, since then, we have grown and have included a number of sub-locals. The Local now owns the building we used to rent our office in. The Local has hosted many things like free swimming days, barbecues in the community, Christmas parties, golf tournaments, United Way fundraisers, we have supported our war veterans and Legions, annual toy drives, annual food drives, the Micheal Dunahee Child Find BC ball tournaments, women's hockey, National, Beacon Hill and Esquimalt little leagues, and together in 2018 we celebrated 100 years of CUPE Local 50 representing workers.

I will always value the time I have spent with members of this great local as well as being your representative in the workplace and in the community. I now look to your new President Elect Matthew McKay to take up the torch. I am confident that he is capable of shouldering the responsibility and will sustain the legacy that has been achieved during the past 105 years. I trust you will support him in his new role as you have supported me.

I wish nothing but the best to the members of CUPE Local 50. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you.

In solidarity forever,  
John Burrows, President CUPE Local 50

CUPE LOCAL 50 MEMBERS WORK IN THE TERRITORIES OF THE LEKWUNGEN AND WSANEC PEOPLES – THE SONGHEES, ESQUIMALT, PAUQUACHIN, TSARTLIP, TSAWOUT AND TSEYUM NATIONS. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LONG-STANDING AND CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO THE LANDS AND WATERS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

