



# Minutes of CUPE 951

May 26, 2021

## General Meeting

11:45-1:15 p.m.

*Held using the Zoom video-conferencing platform*

**Meeting ID: 942 6041 9495**

**Passcode: 954614**

*A participant did not respond to the President's request to identify themselves as they did not show up on the seniority list – after many attempts to contact and identify the person to ensure they were a CUPE 951 member, they were moved back into the waiting room to wait for verification and were then removed.*

### **1. Announcements**

An updated Calendar is included at the end of the minutes.

Laurie read some Important Dates to Note for May-June; the list is included at the end of the minutes along with the links to find out more about each date.

### **2. Roll Call of Officers & Stewards – LSW**

13 members of the Executive, Trustees & Stewards participated in the meeting

#### **Recognition of the Territory – KM**

Kirk read the local's recognition of the Territories where the University stands – a copy is included at the end of the minutes

Kirk read #40 & #41 of the Calls to Action from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and encouraged members to read all the

TRC's Calls to Action:

[http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls to Action English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

### **Equality Statement – PS**

Pat read the CUPE National Equality Statement: <https://cupe.ca/equality-statement>

### **Health & Safety – Emergency**

#### **Preparedness – PS**

Pat encouraged members to go to the University's OHSE website: COVID-19 Health and Safety:

<https://www.uvic.ca/ohse/covid-19/index.php> for information on safely returning to work on campus.

If you are working from home, please ensure you have safe exits from your home and that your home work station is ergonomically correct.

If you are working on campus, please ensure you know where the emergency exits and muster points are.

For any questions about Health & Safety please contact: Pat Shade – Co-Chair Joint CUPE 951/University OH&S Committee at: [pshade@uvic.ca](mailto:pshade@uvic.ca)

### **Green Statement – PS**

Pat read the local's Green Statement a copy is included at the end of the minutes

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### 3. Attendance Report & Welcome

#### a. Number of Members Signed-In – CJ

Catherine reported that 27 members and 1 guest were signed into the Zoom video-conference meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Quorum is 20

#### b. Welcome/Oath of New Members – KM

Kirk announced there were no new membership applications

### 4. Approval of the Agenda

#### a. Additions

None

#### b. Changes

Move #12.Nominations, Elections, or Installations to #7, just after #6.Matters arising from the minutes.

***Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended – MSCarried***

### 5. Approval of the Minutes From Previous Meeting

a. The minutes were posted on the CUPE 951 website and were also circulated with the notice of the meeting and agenda

#### b. Errors/Omissions

There were no errors.

***Motion: That the minutes from the April 28, 2021 general meeting be approved – MSCarried***

### 6. Matters Arising From the Minutes

#### a. None

### 7. Nominations, Elections or Installations

There were elections for the Executive positions listed below – all are 2-year

terms except for the Trustee position which is a 3-year term.

The Elections were run by Stephen Leckie, CUPE 951 Elections Officer and Chair of the CUPE 951 Elections Committee and Micha Pesta, CUPE National Representative assigned to our local did the Oath of Office to swear in the newly elected/re-elected Executive members.

#### a. President

##### i. Nominated:

- Kirk Mercer

##### ii. Elected/Acclaimed

- Kirk Mercer

#### b. Second Vice-President

##### i. Nominated:

- Bo Love

##### ii. Elected/Acclaimed

- Bo Love

#### c. Secretary

##### i. Nominated

- Laurie Whyte

##### ii. Elected/Acclaimed

- Laurie Whyte

#### d. Education Chair

##### i. Nominated

- Heidi Loveridge

##### ii. Elected/Acclaimed

- Heidi Loveridge

#### e. Member-At-Large

##### i. Nominated

- Heidi Loveridge – declined as she was elected Education Chair
- Barbara Gordon

##### ii. Elected/Acclaimed

- Barbara Gordon

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**f. Trustee**

**i. Nominated**

- Andrea Roszmann

**ii. Elected/Acclaimed**

- Andrea Roszmann

Kirk thanked the Elections Committee for all their hard work behind the scenes and during the elections. Two of the committee members will be continuing on the new elections committee as we now have elections every year.

***Motion: that the local stands down the CUPE 951 Elections Committee with many thanks – MSCarried***

The Oath of Office was led by Micha Pesta, to swear in the newly elected/re-elected executive. Executive members all spoke the Oath together.

**8. Treasurer's Report – MR**

The financial statements were shared on screen by Michael and he walked us through the report.

For any questions about the Treasurer's report please contact Michael Rheault at: [mrheault@uvic.ca](mailto:mrheault@uvic.ca)

***Motion: That the Treasurer's report be approved – MSCarried***

**9. President's Report – KM**

*The President's report was done before the Executive Board Report as Pat wasn't ready with his report and Kirk was.*

Welcome friends,

In March the employer had come to the Union wanting to end the Chief Stewards agreement, this will lead to the Chief Steward returning to their full time job in

the Library. We believe the employer no longer sees the value to the home departments' budget not being impacted by the obligations of the Union officers that led to the LOA many years ago. We hope to hear back by May 30 on this matter.

On May 10, 2021, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training hosted a Town Hall to discuss the preliminary public health guidance for September 2021 provided in the COVID-19 *Return-to-Campus Primer*. In addition to providing assurances on post-secondary's plans for the fall being aligned with public health advice, Dr. Bonnie Henry and other public health representatives addressed a range of questions related to the following important topics: Vaccine timetable, Accommodations, Go Forward Guidelines and control measures, including masks, and testing/tracing and outbreak management.

Members are encouraged to watch this recent Town Hall by clicking here: [\(1829\) Post secondary town hall with Dr. Bonnie Henry - YouTube](#) to view the recorded session

May 11- the agreement study committee met and so far we have reviewed every article from cover to cover. This year's committee has really stepped up and looks forward to handing over everything to the negotiation committee in September.

The CUPE BC Convention May 19-21, 2021 was a huge success compared to other online events similar in scope. We had members from our local speak to many resolutions and be elected to the CUPE BC Executive board. We look forward to the CUPE National convention later this fall. In Solidarity, Kirk Mercer  
President CUPE 951

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For any questions about this report, please contact Kirk Mercer at:  
[presidentcupe951@uvic.ca](mailto:presidentcupe951@uvic.ca)

**Discussion:** Many members are concerned about the re-opening of the province and the return to campus in September. The Province is really depending on the vaccination program to make the re-opening successful.

The current Safe Working Plans at UVic will stay in place until August 1, 2021. UVic believes their classroom settings are safe. They do need to look at the movement of students on campus when they leave/enter classroom – it's uncontrolled traffic and they will be looking at how to control that traffic and maintain safe social distancing.

By September, the PHO may say that social distancing is no longer necessary. The message the PHO is putting out looks like all the safety procedures will no longer be necessary come September. The PHO is basing this on the more people that get vaccinated, the more safety precautions that can be lifted.

UVic is not looking at mandatory vaccinations for student or staff. There isn't any tracking of who is/isn't vaccinated. Students are encouraged to get vaccinated.

The CUPE Locals and the CUPE National Representative assigned to CUPE 951 meet regularly with Human Resources to discuss the safe return to campus.

Human Resources approached the local about remote work. The majority of the people who completed the remote work survey said they would like part-time remote work. There will be more meetings

with Human Resources regarding potential Remote Working agreements. Going forward we are hopeful there will be an LOA about remote working. There will also be discussions about the return of Modified Work Weeks.

Parking is also a big concern for our members if they are working a combination of remotely and on-site they will want something like the current 'punch card' system in place so they don't have to pay for full-time parking when they are only on campus part-time.

***Motion: That the President's report be approved – MSCarried***

For more details/questions about the return to campus in September, contact Kirk Mercer at [presidentcupe951@uvic.ca](mailto:presidentcupe951@uvic.ca)

## **10. Executive Board Report – PS**

Executive E-Vote #26-04-2021 –

Motion: That CUPE 951 send up to 3 members to the Lancaster House 39th Annual Labour and Policy Conference, June 8-10, 2021 – MSCarried

Miners' Memorial is June 19<sup>th</sup> in Cumberland.

A Motion was passed at Executive that CUPE 951 purchase a wreath or flowers up to \$100 for the 2021 Miners' Memorial Day

A motion was passed that CUPE 951 endorse Pat Shade for re-election as Chair of the VIDC Technical Committee.

Another motion was passed that CUPE 951 Endorse the following VIDC positions: Laurie Whyte for Diversity Member-at-Large (the Diversity Member-at-Large is automatically the Chair of the Diversity Committee); Kirk Mercer for Chair of the Skilled Trades

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Committee; Amy Issel for the 1-year Trustee position; Amy Issel for Chair of the Anti-Privatization Committee; and Laurie Whyte for Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

The official campaign kick-off for the Period Promise Campaign Victoria Labour Council (VLC) & United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV) is May 6, 2021.

A Motion was passed that CUPE 951 donate \$100 to the Period Promise Campaign in conjunction with the Victoria Labour Council (VLC) & United Way of Greater Victoria (UWGV).

A Motion was passed that CUPE 951 purchase the Lancaster House webinar: 'Speaking Out in the Public Interest: Whistleblowing and the scope and limits of employee free speech', at a cost of up to \$300.

On May 4, 2021, the Employer gave 2-months notice under Article 23.16 of changes to the LTD plan. Kirk contacted the CUPE 951 Benefits committee to let them know that notice had been received and that a meeting would be coming regarding the impacts of coming changes and ways to curtail increased costs to the LTD.

In Solidarity, VP Pat Shade

For any questions about this report, please contact Pat Shade at: [pshade@uvic.ca](mailto:pshade@uvic.ca)

***Motion: That the Executive Board report be approved -- MSCarried***

### **11. Chief Steward's Report**

No new grievances have been filed this month and no outstanding grievances were resolved. We are still waiting on

replies from, or meetings with, the employer on outstanding issues.

Thanks to those who shared information on the use of Emergency Leave. Anyone with examples of the use of Emergency Leave can still send that info to the Chief Steward.

The Union is concerned that the Employer may try to use reduced use of in-person service points as an excuse to eliminate some front-line positions which could cause some members to be facing regular layoffs (as opposed to the temporary COVID layoffs). We do not believe that any long-term decision on staffing of in-person service points can be made based on the usage over the past 18 months.

We remain committed to keeping our members safe, maintaining the ability of our members to work remotely, and restoring the Modified Work Week (MWW) agreements for those members.

A question was raised about the use of work time for medical/dental appointments. So far there hasn't been a response from the employer regarding the meeting held to discuss our opposition to the employer saying members could not use work time under Article 23.06 for ongoing medical appointments such as physiotherapy or chiropractor unless they were short-term, emergency based. The Union stands by our c/a language that allows members to use up to 2-hours of work time to attend medical or dental appointments.

There are no limitations in the c/a other than one can only use up to 2 hours per day.

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For any questions about the Chief Steward's report, please contact Ted Godwin at: [chiefstewardcupe951@uvic.ca](mailto:chiefstewardcupe951@uvic.ca)

***Motion: That the Chief Steward's report be approved – MSCarried***

***Motion: to table all remaining reports – MSCarried***

There will be a video of the speech John Horgan gave at the CUPE BC Convention at the next meeting. Also, Amy is working on a convention slide show for the next meeting.

Shane Koyczan did a powerful spoken word performance he created especially for CUPE BC to wrap up their convention. Contact Pat Shade [pshade@uvic.ca](mailto:pshade@uvic.ca) for the link to watch the video of Shane's performance. A brief bio for Shane is included at the end of the minutes.

### **Good & Welfare of the Union**

Pat shared that he had a medical appointment this morning and he was declared cancer free! Yay!

### **12. Other Executive Committees' Report** **a. Communications Committee Report – AI – Tabled**

For any Communication Committee questions, please contact Amy Issel at: [amyrowe@uvic.ca](mailto:amyrowe@uvic.ca) or [cupelocal951@gmail.com](mailto:cupelocal951@gmail.com)

### **b. Education Committee Report – BG – Tabled**

For any Education Committee questions, please contact Barbara Gordon at: [bgordon@uvic.ca](mailto:bgordon@uvic.ca)

### **13. Trustees Report – MG – Tabled**

For more information/questions, please contact:

Mohit Garg: [mgarg@uvic.ca](mailto:mgarg@uvic.ca)

Page DeWolfe: [cdewolfe@uvic.ca](mailto:cdewolfe@uvic.ca)

Andrea Roszmann: [aroszmanna@uvic.ca](mailto:aroszmanna@uvic.ca)

### **14. Reports of Committees, Delegates – Tabled**

### **15. Unfinished Business – Tabled**

### **16. New Business – Tabled**

### **17. Adjournment**

***Motion: to adjourn the meeting at: 1:18 p.m. -- MSCarried***

***Contact information for the newly elected Executive members will be included in the June minutes.***

**Next General Meeting:**  
**June 23, 2021**  
**11:45 – 1:15 p.m.**  
***Using the Zoom Video-Conference Platform***





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## CUPE 951 Territory acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory CUPE Local 951 conducts its business, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples and Coast Salish whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

### Green Statement – written by retired CUPE 951 member, Michèle Favarger

As our Union fosters awareness of Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling, CUPE 951 members should be mindful of their choices, and endeavour to make decisions that support the best practices protecting the environment.

Please recycle all distributed documents, respecting the confidentiality of the material therein. Bring a reusable cup to your in-person meetings, and commit to walk, bike, and carpool or take public transportation when you can.

In this way, we respect our environment, each other and future generations •



**We are all different and that is beautiful!**

### CALENDAR UPDATE to CUPE 951 General meeting – May 2021 – DRAFT

(\* under consideration) (Changes are underlined>

May 5 Executive meeting via zoom- Kirk Mercer, Ted Godwin, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte, Michael Rheault, Amy Issel, Barbara Gordon, Ross Alden

May 7 - CUPE BC Executive Board via zoom - Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade

May 10 – Post-Secondary town hall with Bonnie Henry – Union presidents

May 11 – Agreement Study Committee meeting via zoom- Kirk Mercer, Ted Godwin, Tera Domeli, Amy Issel, Page DeWolfe, Heidi Loveridge, Ashely Jellicoe, Laurie Whyte, Michael Rheault, Pat Shade.

May 18, 19, 20 - CUPE BC Executive Board via zoom - Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade

May 19 – VLC Meeting – Kirk Mercer, Ted Godwin, Page DeWolfe, Michael Rheault

May 19-21 - CUPE BC's 57th Convention – Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Amy Issel, Page DeWolfe, Michael Rheault, Laurie Whyte, Ted Godwin

May 26 - CUPE 951 general meeting via zoom Executive Elections

May 29 – VIDC General meeting via Zoom - Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte, Ted Godwin, Amy Issel, Michael Rheault

May 30 – June 4 CUPE BC Spring Weeklong School\*

June 16-18 – CLC Convention – Kirk Mercer

June 19 – Miners Memorial – Cumberland – Kirk Mercer

July 8 CUPE BC Executive Board via zoom – Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte

August 5 CUPE BC Executive Board via zoom- Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte

September 2 CUPE BC Executive Board via zoom- Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte

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September 23-24 CUPE BC Executive Board\* – Anvil Centre, New Westminster – TBD- Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte  
September 25 VIDC Meeting – Via Zoom - Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte, Ted Godwin, Amy Issel, Page DeWolfe  
October 13-14 OBCM – Richmond  
November 22-26 CUPE National Convention, Vancouver  
December 1-2 CUPE BC Executive Board – Anvil Centre, New Westminster – TBD - Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte  
December 4 VIDC Meeting – Via Zoom Kirk Mercer, Pat Shade, Laurie Whyte, Ted Godwin, Amy Issel, Page DeWolfe

#### **Dates of Interest to Note – May-June**

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Vesak: commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha and celebrated at the Day of the Full Moon in the Indian month of Vaisakha (April-May)  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – National Blueberry Cheesecake Day  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – National Paper Airplane Day  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – National Senior Health and Fitness Day  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – National Sorry Day  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – National Cellophane Tape Day  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – National Grape Popsicle Day  
May 27<sup>th</sup> – National Hairstylist Mental Health Awareness Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – National Don't Fry Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – National Hamburger Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – National Heat Awareness Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – National Road Trip Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> – National Sunscreen Day  
May 29<sup>th</sup> – International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers  
May 29<sup>th</sup> – Learn About Composting Day  
May 29<sup>th</sup> – National Paperclip Day  
May 29<sup>th</sup> – Put a Pillow on your Fridge Day  
May 30<sup>th</sup> – Indianapolis 500  
May 30<sup>th</sup> – National Creativity Day  
May 30<sup>th</sup> – National Hole in My Bucket Day  
May 30<sup>th</sup> – National Mint Julep Day  
May 30<sup>th</sup> – National Water a Flower Day  
**May 30<sup>th</sup> – World Multiple Sclerosis Day**  
**May 31<sup>st</sup> – World No-Tobacco Day**  
May 31<sup>st</sup> – Autonomous Vehicle Day  
May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Macaroon Day  
**May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Save Your Hearing Day**  
May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Smile Day  
May 31<sup>st</sup> – Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Global Day of Parents  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Dare Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Flip a Coin Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – National Go Barefoot Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – National Heimlich Maneuver Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – National Say Something Nice Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Oscar the Grouch Day  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Pen Pal Day  
**June 1<sup>st</sup> – Stand For Children Day**  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – World Milk Day



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June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Global Running Day  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> – National Leave the Office Early Day  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Bicycle Day  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Egg Day  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – National Moonshine Day  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Cider Day  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**  
June 4<sup>th</sup> – National Hug Your Cat Day  
June 4<sup>th</sup> – National Cheese Day  
June 4<sup>th</sup> – National Donut Day  
**June 5<sup>th</sup> – World Environment Day**  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – National Prairie Day  
**June 6<sup>th</sup> – The anniversary of D-Day – Let us never forget the horrors of war**  
**June 6<sup>th</sup> – National Cancer Survivors Day**  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – National Eyewear Day  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – National Gardening Day  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – National Yo-Yo Day  
June 7<sup>th</sup> – World Food Safety Day  
June 7<sup>th</sup> – National Chocolate Ice Cream Day  
June 7<sup>th</sup> – Prince's Birthday  
June 8<sup>th</sup> – World Oceans Day  
June 8<sup>th</sup> – National Best Friends Day  
June 9<sup>th</sup> – National Donald Duck Day  
June 10<sup>th</sup> – National Iced Tea Day  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – King Kamehameha Day  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – National Corn on the Cob Day  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – National German Chocolate Cake Day  
**June 12<sup>th</sup> – World Day Against Child Labour**  
June 12<sup>th</sup> – National Loving Day  
June 12<sup>th</sup> – National Rosé Day  
June 12<sup>th</sup> – Philippines Independence Day  
June 13<sup>th</sup> – International Albinism Awareness Day  
June 13<sup>th</sup> – National Sewing Machine Day  
**June 14<sup>th</sup> – World Blood Donor Day**  
June 14<sup>th</sup> – National Bourbon Day  
**June 15<sup>th</sup> – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**  
June 15<sup>th</sup> – National Bug Busting Day  
June 15<sup>th</sup> – Nature Photography Day  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – International Day of Family Remittances  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – National Fudge Day  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – International Day of the African Child  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – National Eat Your Vegetables Day  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – Sustainable Gastronomy Day  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – International Panic Day  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – International Picnic Day  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – International Sushi Day  
June 18<sup>th</sup> – National Go Fishing Day  
**June 19<sup>th</sup> – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – International Box Day  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – National Garfield the Cat Day  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – National Martini Day

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**June 20<sup>th</sup> – World Refugee Day**

June 20<sup>th</sup> – Ugliest Dog Day

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day**

June 20<sup>th</sup> – National Vanilla Milkshake Day

June 21<sup>st</sup> – International Day of Yoga

June 21<sup>st</sup> – International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice

**June 21<sup>st</sup> – National Indigenous Peoples' Day (Canada)**

June 21<sup>st</sup> – National Take Your Cat to Work Day

June 21<sup>st</sup> – National Selfie Day

June 21<sup>st</sup> – National Smoothie Day

**June 21<sup>st</sup> – World Day of Music**

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – National Kissing Day

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – National Onion Ring Day

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> – United Nations Public Service Day**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – International Widows' Day

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Hydration Day

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Pink Day

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Typewriter Day

June 24<sup>th</sup> – Midsummer

June 24<sup>th</sup> – National Pralines Day

**June 24<sup>th</sup> – National Work From Home Day**

June 25<sup>th</sup> – Day of the seafarer

June 25<sup>th</sup> – National Take Your Dog to Work Day

June 25<sup>th</sup> – Global Beatles Day

**June 26<sup>th</sup> – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

June 26<sup>th</sup> – United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

June 26<sup>th</sup> – Midsummer Day

June 26<sup>th</sup> – National Chocolate Pudding Day

June 27<sup>th</sup> – Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – Helen Keller Day**

June 27<sup>th</sup> – National Bingo Day

**June 27<sup>th</sup> – National PTSD Awareness Day**

June 27<sup>th</sup> – National Sunglasses Day

June 28<sup>th</sup> – National Tapioca Day

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Hug Holiday

June 29<sup>th</sup> – National Camera Day

June 30<sup>th</sup> – International Asteroid Day

June 30<sup>th</sup> – Social Media Day

For more information about the meaning and significance of each of these days please go to:

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/> ; <https://nationaltoday.com/animal-holidays/> ;

and <https://nationaltoday.com/june-holidays/> and click on the day you would like to know more about.





## Shane Koyczan

Author/Poet

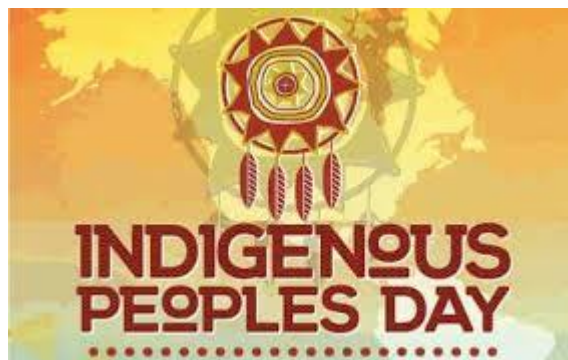
2021 CUPE BC Convention



In a realm where poets rarely intersect with stardom, the Opening Ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics introduced us to Shane Koyczan. Powerfully engaging and authentic in attitude, his explorations are relevant to our times in the way that Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Gordon Downie and Leonard Cohen are to theirs. But unlike the musicians that he's often compared to, poets rarely infiltrate pop culture.

Internationally recognized author and spoken word artist Shane Koyczan has emerged as a creator of poetry that dares to belong to the people and speak directly to them in their own voice. In 2013, he collaborated with animators to make the anti-bullying viral video "To This Day" which has had over 17 million views, and he performed a customized version "For the Bullied and the Beautiful" to acclaim at the 2013 International TED Conference in Long Beach, California.

Shane Koyczan is best known for his award-winning spoken word performances. With his rhythmic verse in high gear, he navigates his audience through social and political territory with a furious honesty and a tender humanity that has brought audiences to their feet in New York, London, Edinburgh, Sydney, Stockholm, and Los Angeles, to name a few. He has received 5 star reviews for his performances around the globe. Winner of the US Poetry Championship and the Canadian Spoken Word Olympics, Koyczan is truly an extraordinary talent that has blown the dust off of the traditional designation "poet".



**June 21, 2021!**