

November 9th, 2022

To Greater Victoria School Board Trustees and Superintendents,

This is a joint letter representing the voices of the District Health and Safety Committee. We represent the GVTA, CUPE 382, CUPE 947, PVPA of the Greater Victoria School District.

We are writing to express our serious concerns about the Health and Safety implications of cuts to day custodial staff.

Due to cuts to day custodians, SD 61 is not able to implement the requirements of the **Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings** or our own **School District Communicable Disease Prevention Plan – School Sites**. Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces or shared equipment are NOT consistently being cleaned once every 24 hours as both the Provincial and District guidelines and plans state. Visibly dirty surfaces are not being consistently cleaned.

We have identified many other areas where custodial cuts are creating significant risk:

- people without training attempting to do custodial work which includes storage of chemicals and cleaning procedures and requires WHIMS training
- lack of training with non CUPE 382 cleaning up paraphernalia left by transient people (used needles) on school premises
- Potential for cross contamination with cleaning rags (i.e. used for water fountain/ toilets/bodily fluids)
- Lack of time to complete tasks and a regular basis such as cleaning washrooms, filling soap dispensers, refilling paper towel dispensers, etc.
- Other people doing the job of CUPE 382 members such as administrator and students.
- There is already a huge strain on custodial staff, and to add the clean up of mud and leaves when the weather starts changing.
- Safety sweeps and walkabouts being done and putting down Ice Melt early in the morning. We are aware that the Grounds crew has now been assigned this responsibility, however, will these items be accomplished before students and staff arrive for school.

Because of the expectation of our custodians to do full time work with part time hours they are unable to get to important work done in the time given. Day custodians sit on several important committees at the schools they work at, such as the Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS). They are now working at two schools, so therefore need to sit on twice the number of committees. Being on these committees is essential but is now taking away time from doing their custodial work.

We have noticed a rise in conflict at work sites as frustration mounts when tasks are unable to be completed. We are convinced this will worsen.

The primary responsibility of the School District is to ensure the safety of its employees and students. Cuts to custodial time impair your ability to fulfill this obligation. We urge the District to immediately reinstate cut custodial time.

Yours truly,



Cindy Romphf

2nd VP GVTA – Health and Safety Officer

District Occupational Health and Safety Committee Co-Chair (Worker)



Ilana Hampton

GVTA - Health and Safety Representative



Sarah Harvey

GVTA - Health and Safety Representative



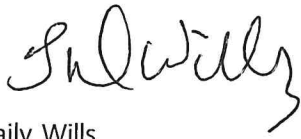
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