

The IAM Connection

A publication for members of IAM Local 2797

Spring 2026 Edition



Members of IAM Local 2797 in the News!

Members of IAM Local 2797 are getting noticed!

Stephanie Swikehardt was pictured outside Province House standing up for workers at a rally against government cuts. You can read the article here: <https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/nsgeu-members-protest-devastating-government-service-cuts-job-losses-outside-province-house-budget-2026-civil-service>



The 3rd edition of IAM Voices magazine profiled Melissa Marsman for her election as President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour (NSFL); Stephanie Swikehardt is pictured with the attendees of the first ever District 140 Women's Conference—Stephanie is also the only woman from Atlantic Canada who sits on the District 140 Women's Committee; IAM Members were pictured supporting CUPE members at a rally in downtown Halifax during the NSFL Convention; and Cynthia Black, Zita Hildebrandt and Janet Baker were featured for their leadership roles in the IAM Atlantic Council.

Check out the full magazine articles here: <https://iamaw.ca/now-live-the-3rd-edition-of-voices-magazine/>



Member Profile

Majed Idris

Passenger Service Agent and Team Lead at Swissport;
Majed has worked at Swissport for 2 years.

Involvement in local:

- Shop Steward
- Scheduling Committee Chairperson

Where are you from: Majed is from the Syrian Arab Republic, but is now a proud Canadian citizen.

Hobbies: Majed is a huge fan of video games and also enjoys reading and playing soccer.

Volunteer work: Majed gives back to the community as a frequent blood donor and he is trying to fit volunteer work into his busy schedule.

Fun fact: A lot of people struggle to say his name correctly, so he tells people to use the word magic and replace the C at the end with a D and voila, that's the closest it will ever be to saying his name correctly.



Trivia Time



Trivia questions submitted by the IAM Local 2797 Women's Committee.
Answers can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

1. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
2. Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic?
3. Who wrote the first computer algorithm?
4. Who is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner (for girls' education)?
5. Who was the first female Governor General of Canada?

Congratulations!

The Local would like to extend congratulations to the following members on their recent and upcoming retirements:

- ◇ Paul Gaudet, CFAD
- ◇ Odette MacLeod, NSGEU
- ◇ Trish MacDonald, NSGEU

Congratulations to Majed Idris from Swissport who had his Canadian Citizenship Ceremony on March 12, 2026.

IAM Local 2797 was awarded the 2026 Chris Wagoner Memorial Leadership Grant. The grant allows one member to attend all 4 leadership courses at no cost to the local.

Congratulations to Kelly Ritcey who was selected by your Local Executive to be the recipient of this grant. She will complete Leadership I in 2026, Leadership II in 2027, Advanced Leadership in 2028 and Train the Trainer in 2029.



KAL Tire



It's exciting to have new members join our local! We'd like to welcome the staff at Kal Tire—we hope to meet many of them in person at a local meeting. Be sure to use Kal Tire for all your tire needs—and don't forget to mention that you are supporting a unionized shop! This is great for both the employees who fought hard to become part of a union and the employer to see a benefit in increased sales for being unionized.

They are located at 42 Isnor Drive in Dartmouth—book an appointment by calling 902-468-8473 or visit them online at www.kaltire.com.

Cheers To You

Is there a member of our local that you know has a reason to celebrate? We would love to celebrate with our members; if you know of someone celebrating a milestone or accomplishment (marriage, birth, , job/career change, graduation, awards or recognition) let us know! We'll ensure they get the praise they deserve! You can send your submissions to any member of the executive.





School Supply Drive

Local 2797 **Human Rights & Women's Committees** are asking for donations of school supplies to donate to Dr. T.L Sullivan school in Florence, NS for their Caring Closet initiative, which provides necessities for learning to students in their community and beyond. For a list of items, please see a member of either committee.



Chairs, Cynthia Black—cindyblack2009@gmail.com and Stephanie Swikehardt—stephanieswikehardt@gmail.com

Coat Donations



Local 2797 **Community Services Committee** is collecting gently used, clean coats. All coats collected are donated by the committee to local charity organizations. Please bring your coats to a local meeting or contact a member of the committee to make other arrangements for drop off.

Chair, Deedee Slye—dslye@nsgeu.ca

NSFL and CLC Campaigns

Local 2797 **Political Action Committee** is supporting several NSFL campaigns: EI Must Be Fixed Now!; Stop Violence in the Workplace; Anti-Scab Legislation Now!; and Stop! Misuse of Non-Disclosure Agreements. For more information on these campaigns, please visit: <https://nslabour.ca/take-action/> The PAC Committee also supports the following CLC initiatives: Strengthen the Safety Net; Protect Every Worker; and Make Homes Affordable.



Chair, Vacant

Winter Wear Donations



The IAM Local 2797 **Human Rights Committee** is seeking donations of new or gently used hats, scarves and mitts that will be donated to a local shelter during the winter months. Please bring items to a local meeting or drop off to a member of the committee.

Chair, Cynthia Black—cblack@nsgeu.ca



IAMAW ★ WILLIAM W. WINPISINGER
Education AND Technology Center

2026 Programs

To view a full list of programs offered for 2026, please visit the W3 website at: <https://w3iam.org/2026-programs/>

Virtual Training for Spring 2026:

APRIL 2026

Diversity in Organizing.

[Wednesday, April 15, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, April 16, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

MAY 2026

Role of the Steward.

[Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, May 21, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

JUNE 2026

Getting Ready for Contract Negotiations.

[Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

JULY 2026

Microsoft Excel I (Basic).

[Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, July 23, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, July 25, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

AUGUST 2026

Preserving Your Local's History.

[Wednesday, August 19, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, August 20, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, August 22, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Microsoft Word II (Intermediate).

[Wednesday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)



IAM Union Structure

Local 2797

The major building blocks of the IAM are the Local; the District; the Territory, and International.

Local - The building block of the IAM; where members meet monthly to share and debate ideas, vote on issues and elect officers. The officers include a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Conductor Sentinal and three Trustees.

District (Air Transportation) - A District is made up of several locals across a large geographical area. Most locals fall under a district which is responsible for the servicing of the units within it; although some units and locals are un-affiliated which means they are not part of the district structure. In Local 2797 the following units are part of District 140: Swissport/Menzies/Air Consol.

General Chairperson/Business Representative (Chris Lipsit) - The terms General Chairperson and Business Representative are interchangeable however, in transportation the nomenclature is "General Chairperson", and "Business Representative" in non transportation districts. The Business Representative reports to a Directing Business Representative and the General Chairpersons report to a President Directing General Chairperson. Your General Chairperson is elected and employed full-time to protect, defend and advance the interests of the IAM membership.

Territory (Canadian) - The IAM is divided into territorial jurisdictions, each headed by a General Vice President. Six of the Territories are geographical regions (Eastern, Midwest, Western, Southern, and Canadian); one is industrial (Transportation) and one (Headquarters) has jurisdiction over IAM Headquarters operations in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the U.S. Organizing staff and the William W. Winpisinger Education and Technology Center at Placid Harbor, in southern Maryland.

International Representative (Matt Barnable) - The International Representatives are appointed by the International President, and represent the International President in areas across the territories, providing support to the locals as assigned by the General Vice President's office.

Canadian General Vice President (Dave Chartrand) - The General Vice President (GVP) is a top-ranking international officer who serves on the Executive Council, often directing specific territories, industries, or departments like Headquarters. They are key leaders reporting to the International President, helping to guide union strategy, support members, and influence labor policy.

International - International is a term commonly used to refer to the top IAM leadership or to IAM Headquarters. The term International refers to the entire IAM organization, which (spanning the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and Panama) is international in scope.

Executive Council - The Executive Council is comprised of the nine General Vice Presidents, the International President and the General Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Council is elected every four years by a direct, secret ballot vote of the entire IAM membership.

IAM Member Benefits

Members of IAM are eligible for discounts from numerous businesses within Canada and the US. There is a wide range of services offered for home, automotive and/or health and wellness. To view the full list of organizations offering benefits, please visit: <https://www.unionplus.org/>

Cook It Up

Mediterranean Quinoa Salad

Ingredients

- 1 cup Quinoa
- Lemon; zested and juiced
- 1 tsp Oregano
- 3/4 tsp. Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Pepper
- 1/4 cup Olive Oil
- Green onions
- Bell Pepper (red, yellow or orange)
- Kalamata Olives (drained)
- English Cucumber
- Feta Cheese

Directions

Step 1: Rinse the quinoa well under cold running water. Cook according to package directions.

Step 2: While the quinoa cooks, make the vinaigrette. Add the juice and zest of 1 lemon to a serving bowl, along with oregano, salt, and pepper. Whisk in olive oil. Taste and adjust the seasoning to your liking.

Step 3: Once the quinoa is finished cooking and has absorbed all of the liquid, add it to the bowl with the vinaigrette. Stir to coat and allow the quinoa to absorb the lemon vinaigrette. Let it cool completely before adding the vegetables.

Step 4: While the quinoa cools, chop the vegetables. Slice the scallions, chop the peppers, and run your knife through the Kalamata olives. Add them to the bowl. Slice the cucumber in half, then into quarters, and roughly chop. Add the bowl and stir. Finish with crumbled feta and serve.

Tips for cooking with quinoa:

The star ingredient in this salad is quinoa, a nutrient-dense seed that is high in protein, fiber, and various vitamins and minerals. It's also naturally gluten-free, making it a great option for people with celiac disease or gluten intolerance. However, sometimes quinoa can taste bitter, but there is an easy fix.

Quinoa has a coating that contains saponins, bitter-tasting bioactive compounds. They are naturally occurring and nothing to worry about, but they are why some people pass on this versatile seed. However, removing the saponins (and the bitterness along with it) is easy to do. Here's how: 1. Place quinoa in a fine mesh sieve. 2. Rinse the quinoa under running water while agitating the seeds.



Trivia Answers

1. Marie Curie (Physics 1903, Chemistry 1911) 2. Amelia Earhart (1932) 3. Ada Lovelace (1840s) 4. Malala Yousafzai (2014) 5. Jeanne Sauvé

The intent of this newsletter is to keep the members of IAM Local 2797 informed on current events within your Local. Submissions can be made by emailing: cindyblack2009@gmail.com or any member of your Executive.