

DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Representing over 19,000 members in over 125 locals across Nova Scotia

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New Radio Ad: Stephen McNeil's Health Care Check Up

On February 25th, 2019, CUPE Nova Scotia and CUPE 8920 acute care workers launched a new radio ad to bring attention to broken promises made by Premier Stephen McNeil when he moved the provincial system to a single health care authority. The ad ran on radio stations across the province for two weeks saying ;

“Time for a Health Care Check Up of Stephen McNeil's move to a single Provincial Health Authority. He promised a doctor for every Nova Scotian. He promised to increase accessibility to frontline services. He promised to meet the national wait time standard for hip and knee replacements. And that health care decisions would be transparent, accountable, and made with public input. Nova Scotia: how does this check up look to you? A message from CUPE Nova Scotia and CUPE 8920 Acute Care workers.”

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



CUPE NS continues to represent across the province, advocating for our members interests, attending rallies and standing in solidarity at pickets . Your voice is also represented on our CUPE National Executive Board, the NS Federation of Labour, the NS Health Coalition and the NS Action Coalition for Community Wellbeing.

LONG TERM CARE

Along with the Long Term Care Coordinating Committee (LTCCC), we presented to the LTC Expert Panel. We were so very disappointed in their report. No meaningful change after telling us they heard us.

CUPE NS will be supporting the LTCCC with an upcoming campaign highlighting our members and the work they do. More news on this to follow, stay tuned!

ANTI-PRIVATIZATION

We are currently preparing an anti-privatization campaign highlighting the governments plan to fund the 104 twinning with money from a private consortium. This work supports the work of CUPE Local 1867, defending our public services. We continue to advocate that public highways should be built and owned by Nova Scotians.

We are also working on pushing back on the government's plans on a private funder for the QEII. The recent announcement of the Cancer Center expansion in Cape Breton is going to be funded with public monies, why this is not the path for the QEII remains a mystery.

ACUTE CARE

CUPE NS recently partnered with Acute Care to fund the production of radio ads, focused on a health care check up for the McNeil Government. You can listen to the radio ad here.

<https://novascotia.cupe.ca/2019/02/25/new-radio-ad-mcneils-health-care-check-up/>

We are looking forward to more partnering opportunities in the future.

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION

On October 7th-11th, 2019, CUPE National will hold its bi-annual convention in Montreal. Remember, there is an assistance fund for locals without sufficient funds to send a delegate. You can now send two at no cost to your Local. Find the info here at :

<https://cupe.ca/application-form-national-events-assistance-fund>



UPDATE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENCE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES SUSTAINABILITY (2015) ACT (BILL 148) TO THE NOVA SCOTIA COURT OF APPEAL

On August 22, 2017, the Province of Nova Scotia referred the wage provisions of Bill 148 to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal for a determination of the constitutionality of those sections. Due to pressure from labour, the government agreed to amend the reference and on October 13, 2017, referred both the wage and service award provisions of Bill 148 to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

On January 19, 2018, the Court of Appeal granted the following 8 unions intervener status in the constitutional reference, with the right to file written submissions and make oral argument: the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees' Union, the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Service Employees' International Union, Local 2, Unifor, and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 727. Pink Larkin represents the unions. The Attorney General of Manitoba was also granted intervener status.

The position being taken by the Unions in the constitutional reference is that the wage and

service award provisions of Bill 148 violate the freedom of association and freedom of expression guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

On December 14, 2018, the Province filed its 16 Volume Record, which is essentially all the documents that the Province said it relied on to pass Bill 148.

The Unions intend to share draft expert reports and affidavits with the Province in the coming months. The Province has indicated that it may object to the Unions being able to file and rely on evidence, despite the Province having filed a 16-Volume Record of documents. If the Province objects to the Unions being able to file and rely on evidence, they will have to ask the Court of Appeal to decide the issue.

While it is difficult to predict the timing of things with any accuracy, as it depends in part on whether the Province will try to prevent the Unions from filing evidence, it is possible that the Unions and the parties will be before the Court in the fall of 2019 to set hearing dates for the spring of 2020.

CUPE NS CONVENTION

May 26-29 at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre:

- CUPE NS has a solidarity assistance fund that is supported by our affiliated Locals. Locals that do not have the funds to attend convention can access this fund, reach out and see if your local qualifies.
- At our last convention a constitutional amendment was passed to add a young worker seat to our CUPE NS Executive, consider sending a worker under 30 to put their name forward for this seat!

My thanks to each and everyone of you for the work you do each day.

In solidarity,

Nan McFadgen

PRESIDENT OF CUPE NOVA SCOTIA



UPCOMING EDUCATION

Steward Learning Series : Representing members in front of management, Challenging sexism in the workplace and What stewards need to know about arbitration

March 30 - 31, 2019 | CUPE New Glasgow Area office

Steward Learning Series : Duty of fair representation, Conflict skills for stewards and Growing our mobilizing power

April 6 - 7, 2019 | CUPE Atlantic Regional Office, Dartmouth

Health and Safety - An Introduction

April 6 - 7, 2019 | CUPE New Glasgow Area office, New Glasgow

Health and Safety Series : Making Committees Work, Identifying and Documenting Hazards and Understanding Mental Injuries at Work

April 13 - 14, 2019 | CUPE Sydney Area office

Using our Power at Election Time

Apr 13, 2019 | CUPE Atlantic Regional Office, Dartmouth

Stewart Learning Series : Handling discipline and discharge, Mediating member-to-member conflict and Growing our mobilizing power

April 13 - 14, 2019 | CUPE Yarmouth Area Office

LET - Parliamentary Procedure

April 27 - 28, 2019 | CUPE Atlantic Regional Office, Dartmouth

Financial Officers and Essentials

May 4 - 5, 2019 | CUPE Sydney Area office

Health and Safety Series : Women and Work Hazard, Violence Prevention and Understanding Mental Injuries at Work

May 4 - 5, 2019 | CUPE Atlantic Regional Office, Dartmouth

Health and Safety Series : Basics of Incident Investigations, Making Committees Work and Women and Work Hazard

May 11 - 12, 2019 | CUPE New Glasgow Area office

Check out www.cupe.ca/unioneducation for more details and to view more available workshops.

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."

-NELSON MANDELA



We extend Congratulations to Maryann Pearson, Patricia Perry, Donna Biron, Marcy Vacon & Kelsie Croft, for successfully completing their CUPE Member Facilitator Training.



Women's Committee Members have designed their new logo!



BARGAINING UPDATE

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED FOR CUPE LONG TERM CARE WORKERS IN NOVA SCOTIA

January 24, 2019

The CUPE Nova Scotia Long Term Care Coordinating Committee is pleased to announce that a tentative agreement has been reached with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness.

"Details of the agreement will be presented to CUPE members at meetings to take place across the province the week of February 10 to 14, 2019. A schedule of meeting dates and locations is available on CUPE Nova Scotia website," says CUPE National Representative Kathy MacLeod. No further details will be released until the agreement is presented to the membership.

CUPE Nova Scotia President Nan McFadgen says, "We congratulate the Long Term Care Coordinating Committee in the completion of provincial bargaining. We want to thank them for their work on behalf of the 49 CUPE nursing homes. It is our hope that government will focus on improving the working conditions for our members, as well as living conditions for residents."



NS Long Term Care
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

"This has a long and difficult round of bargaining, made even more difficult by budget cuts. We were disappointed the recommended ratio of 4.1 hours of direct care per resident each day was not a part of the agreement," says Louise Riley, chair of the LTC Coordinating Committee. "I would like to thank our bargaining team for their patience and commitment to this process."



SAVE THE DATE!

for

CUPE Nova Scotia's 56th Annual Convention

May 26th - May 29th
Membertou Trade
&
Convention Centre
Cape Breton, NS

VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

www.facebook.com/CUPENovaScotia
www.twitter.com/cupenovascotia
www.novascotia.cupe.ca



▶ CAPERS 4 HEALTHCARE

On January 25th, 2019, protesting CUPE members and Community group 'Capers4Healthcare' held a sit in at Liberal MLA Geoff MacLellan's office in Glace Bay, protesting the crisis healthcare is in, in Cape Breton. The group had full intentions to flood MacLellan's office, but were met by Cape Breton Regional Police Officers advising them that only 5 people at a time would be permitted inside.

