



# CUPE EXPRESS JANUARY 2018



*Our Christmas Social December 10, 2017*



*Meet and Greet  
November 19, 2017*



*Occupational Health & Safety  
presentation by CUPE National  
Safety Rep Jenna Brookfield,  
November 25, 2017*



## FYI

As most of you are probably aware, there was an accident involving one of our bus drivers Colin MacDonald. We are happy to report that Colin is doing well and is in good spirits. He has a dislocated hip, broken wrist and broken lower leg. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The employer has a communication policy and we encourage everyone to take the time to read it. Comments on social media pertaining to work is grounds for discipline by the employer. Please be mindful when making comments to avoid putting yourself in this situation.

### **Break Periods**

19.03 Employees who work six (6) or more consecutive hours per day will be entitled to one-half (1/2) hour or one (1) hour unpaid lunch break per day plus two (2) fifteen (15) minute paid rest periods at times designated by the Employer during their shift.

19.04 Employees who work three (3) hours or more and less than six (6) consecutive hours per day will be entitled to one fifteen (15) minute break as designated by the Employer and one-half (1/2) hour or one (1) hour unpaid lunch break per day. Employees who work less than three (3) hours per day are not entitled to a break.

### **Article 24 - Leaves**

The Employer may grant a leave of absence of up to two (2) years without pay and without benefits for good and sufficient reasons to any Employee requesting such a leave in writing. During such leave the Employees will retain his/her seniority.

# President's Report

I would like to welcome everyone back to work and hope that everyone enjoyed their well-deserved time off. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Crystal Vassallo and thank her for taking on the temporary role of Chair of Good of the Union Committee.

Karen Wheeliker and I attended the retirement dinner sponsored by our employer on December 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a very nice dinner with 17 CUPE retirees in attendance.

I attended the Nova Scotia School Board Council of Unions on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and again on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Council is still waiting for a response from government about bargaining as well as waiting for a response from the Dr. Avis Glaze report. We are holding our breath as to what the outcome will be.

The negotiating committee will meet on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and will exchange proposals with the employer on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

I would like to caution members on booking trips before getting time off approved. There have been a couple of cases where members have booked their trip and their time off was denied. There is a form to be completed to request time off without pay and must be submitted and approved.

I would also like to caution our casual members when not accepting work when it is available. If someone from employment insurance were to contact the employer to see if there was work available, you could be putting yourself in jeopardy for receiving employment insurance benefits.

Our next regular meeting is Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at Sydney Academy. As usual, we will be drawing for four \$25 gift cards.

In Solidarity

*Mary Jessome, President*

## **Grievance Report January 2018**

The committee met on December 22, 2017 and welcomed our two new members, Karen Wheeliker and Denise Lewis. We brought them up to date on all issues and reviewed all grievances. Each member now has grievances assigned to them and they will be the contact person.

### **New:**

267-T: requested time to investigate till January 12, 2018. So far I have had no reply.

268-G: Policy, Bus drivers called out on December 12, 2017 for a power outage at Ferrisview Elementary. Committee sent a letter to the employer holding this grievance in abeyance till contract talks.

The committee and I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

In Solidarity,  
Janice Cantwell  
Chair  
902-574-1382

## **OHS Report**

Our OHS Committee has met and sent out new forms for incidents. Please send completed forms in separate envelope Attn: Carman MacDonald at the Operations Support Building 999 Gabarus Highway Prime Brook, through inter- school mail.

In Solidarity

Carmen Macdonald  
Chair OHS Committee

## Good of the Union

**Sympathy cards were sent to:** Susan Estwick, Marie Forsyth, Erin Paruch, Rose Marie Campbell, Debbie Amero, Jenny Mac Neil, Leslie Mac Lean, Margaret Estwick, Denise Lewis, Kim Mac Neil, Anne Mac Donald, Heather Dowling Charlene Bonaparte, Janice Cantwell, family of Cathy MacDougall, Robert MacDougall, Diana Steele, Tanya MacLeod, Shirley Power and Rhonda Mills.

**Get Well:** Mabel Sullivan and Michele Nicholson.

**Thinking of You:** Brenda Hil, Diane Meister and Bev Maroun.

Some discounts to be aware of for local 5050 Members:

- 1) YMCA 20 % of 1 year membership- Sydney
- 2) Tom's Pizza 15 % Baddeck
- 3) Sydco Fuels offering \$0 .10 cents off a liter

**E-mail address for the good of the union committee  
is [cupe5050goodoftheunion@hotmail.com](mailto:cupe5050goodoftheunion@hotmail.com)**

In Solidarity,

Crystal Vassallo (Acting Chair)

## Communications and Education Report

Reminder to all member e-mail important information and good news stories that could be included in the Website or Facebook page to [Cupe5050newsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:Cupe5050newsletter@hotmail.com) To try to be environmentally friendly everyone does not get a newsletter delivered to your building, if you would like a colour copy e-mailed to you, let us know at the above e-mail for our newsletter.

The Nova Scotia 2018 workshop schedule will be released in the next few weeks. Currently switching over to a new system for the workshops and online registration, the schedule begins in early March 2018. On-line registration for the 2018 workshop schedule should be available starting in early January. Tentatively the Educational recommendation's should be presented at our February 2018 Local's membership meeting.

In Solidarity

Russell Ganaway

Chair Communication & Education Committee

## Important Dates

### Schedule of Meetings:

All meetings are held at 2pm

**February 11, 2018**

**Sydney Academy**

**April 15, 2018**

**Dr. TL Sullivan**

**June 10, 2018**

**Sydney Academy**

***Elections May 6th 2018***

***Dr. TL Sullivan***

**Congratulations to Wendy Cartwright on the birth of her granddaughter.**

**Donations were made to the following organizations in December: Every Woman's Place, The Men's Shelter, Transition House, Youth Outreach, Loafs and Fishes, and these Food Bank: North Sydney, Glace Bay, New Waterford, Sydney Mines, North of Smokey and Louisbourg.**

**Congratulations to Denise Lewis on being elected to the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Executive.**

**Congratulations to Denise Lewis and Karen Wheeliker on being elected to the Grievance Committee until May 2018**

**Congratulations to our president Mary Jessome on being appointed to the National Contracting Out and Privatization Committee. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for March.**