Page 1

**MARCH 2019**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**CUPE Newfoundland Labrador**

Image: Group photo of CUPE NL caucus members at the 2017 national convention.

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter!

A message from Sherry Hillier, CUPE NL president Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends:

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter! We hope this newsletter will help us to better communicate with our 6,300 members across Newfoundland and Labrador and provide our locals with additional resources. Please print copies and share this newsletter with other members and post it on bulletin boards. Or share it by email or social media.

We’ll use the newsletter to let members know about the work of the Division, upcoming events, education opportunities, and the many ways our members are advocating for better pensions, health care, public services and more.

Image: Sherry Hillier, CUPE NL president.

**This issue:**

Pharmacare Lobby Day - Page 2

Pension training draws record crowd - Page 3

Resources for CUPE locals and members - Page 4

$15 and Fairness NL - Page 5

Upcoming Events - Page 6

Page 2

**Pharmacare Lobby Day**

CUPE members take action

On January 29, more than 120 health care advocates descended on Parliament Hill to lobby MPs, asking them to support a national Pharmacare program, that is universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable.

CUPE is a partner in the Canadian Healthcare Coalition that organized the event.

Image: group photo of Mary Clarke, Sherry Hillier and Theresa Gillam.

Sherry Hillier and Theresa Gillam from CUPE NL joined forces with Mary Clarke for the NL Healthcare Coalition. The trio met with Scott Simms, MP for Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame, and Churence Rogers, MP for Bonavista—Burin—Trinity. Both parliamentarians signed the Pharmacare Pledge.

For more information about the Canadian Healthcare Coalition’s Pharmacare campaign, please visit the website at healthcoalition.ca/national-public-drug-plan.

Quote:

A single-payer, universal prescription drug plan would ensure that no matter where they live and work, everyone with a health card would have coverage for their prescription

medications.

Sherry Hillier

Image: Sherry Hillier and MP Clarence Churence, in his office.

Page 3

**Pension training draws record crowd**

Image: group photo of CUPE members who attended the pensions training.

Meet some of CUPE’s pension champions and guardians!

CUPE members took part in our union’s largest-ever training for pension trustees and pension advisory committee members, from January 14 to 18.

Angela Targett, from Local 5078 and a member of the CUPE NL Pensions Committee, was in Ottawa to take part in the workshop, as well as Steven Smith, Peggy Chafe, Keir Hiscock and Theresa Antle from Local 1615.

Workplace pensions are our members’ deferred wages. Many plans are under growing pressure from employers and some governments, including attacks on secure defined benefit pension plans, the threat of two-tier pensions, and cuts to benefits.

Working with pension experts, participants explored their legal duties and their political power to protect strong pensions. The week-long training looked at how pension plans are governed, the rights and responsibilities of trustees and advisory committee members, and the strategies that work to safeguard our members’ retirement income.

Members learned about investment issues, including what trustees and all CUPE members can do to keep our pension funds out of privatization. The training also equipped participants to think critically and ask the right questions about key issues, including how to measure a pension plan’s funding.

Some employers use very conservative models that paint a terrible picture of a plan’s health. They then use these overly negative numbers to justify benefit cuts or the all-out dismantling of a good plan.

But pension activists can push back. Members learned that small changes in how these calculations are designed can make a big difference, defusing employer demands for cuts.

Workplace pensions are our members’ deferred wages.

Page 4

**Resources for CUPE locals and members**

Image: an assortment of CUPE national publications.

**Order Online**

<http://cupe.ca/order-from-cupe>

CUPE is pleased to offer a range of resources related to job sectors, union activities and activism. On our national website, you will find useful information for bargaining committees, locals, financial officers, stewards, and communicators. Great to post on workplace bulletin boards!

These resources include materials that can be downloaded directly from the website and ordered online to be delivered to locals. Many items are free of charge. Fact sheets, guides, handbooks, brochures, buttons, pins, flags, calendars, bookmarks, posters, ledgers, trustee packages and much more.

**Website Hosting and Newsletters**

<http://cupe.ca/resources-communicators>

If you are in charge of communications for your local, these tools are for you.

Building a strong union depends on good communication between members, activists and leadership. Websites, newsletters, email, and social media are some of the tools available to local officers and members, as well as activists.

**Promotional Items**

Show your CUPE pride!

Order CUPE items with your local's number and logo, including apparel, head wear, promotional and custom items for your local from these two suppliers.

Cavan Advertising Ltd. <http://cavanadv.com>

Universal Promotions <http://myunionstore.com/cupe>

Image: an assortment of items that can be ordered from CUPE National.

Page 5

**$15 and Fairness NL**

Image: “70,000 – workers in NL that make less than $15/hour” (text only).

Join the fight for a fair minimum wage!

Common Front NL, a coalition of community groups and individuals, are fighting to raise the minimum wage in Newfoundland and Labrador.

CUPE NL is proud to be a part of the coalition and the campaign.

Image: Fight for $15 and Fairness Newfoundland and Labrador (campaign logo).

A $15 minimum wage is a concrete way to help reduce growing inequality, the rise of precarious work, and help move families and individuals out of poverty.

It will also put more money in the pockets of working people that will be spent in the local economy.

30% of our labour force earn $15 an hour or less and women are disproportionately represented, comprising two-thirds of that group.

It’s time for action. We need your support.

Send a message to your MHA asking them to raise the minimum wage. Use the online form at <http://bit.ly/2FKYoY7>.

Page 6

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Image: photo of a smiling woman, sitting in a crowd of members at the 2018 CUPE NL Division Convention.

**Global Justice Conference**

May 4 and 5 in CORNER BROOK, NL

Building International Solidarity: 'Come from Away, Here to Stay’

We are pleased to announce the first ever CUPE NL Global Justice Conference will take place in May, prior to the opening of our Division Convention! The main focus of our conference will be migration and migrants. Why do people move, and what challenges do they face in a new home? What as trade unionists can we do to make migrants feel at home in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to support migrants at home and abroad?

There is no limit on the number of members a Local can register. Registration fee is $50.00. More info at <http://nl.cupe.ca/global-justice>.

**Weeklong School**

June 2 TO 6 in ST. JOHN'S, NL

Given the political climate, this school will help you develop political action and leadership skills in the run-up to our elections. This is a school for activists, new and old, who want to take-on austerity, tackle #metoo and create a workplace more in harmony with the planet. Grow your local’s mobilizing power, learn about green stewarding, and stop harassment and gendered violence in the workplace. More info and registration will be available soon. Website: <http://cupe.ca/mrm-union-education/events>.

**March 18 to 21**

CUPE National Bargaining Conference

Saskatoon

**April 28**

National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

**May 6**

Town Hall: Transparency and the right to know how our money is spent
Corner Brook

**May 6 to 8**

CUPE NL Division Convention Corner Brook

More info: <http://nl.cupe.ca>