



MARCH 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

CUPE Newfoundland Labrador

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.



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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.



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.

**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





Pension training draws record crowd

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.

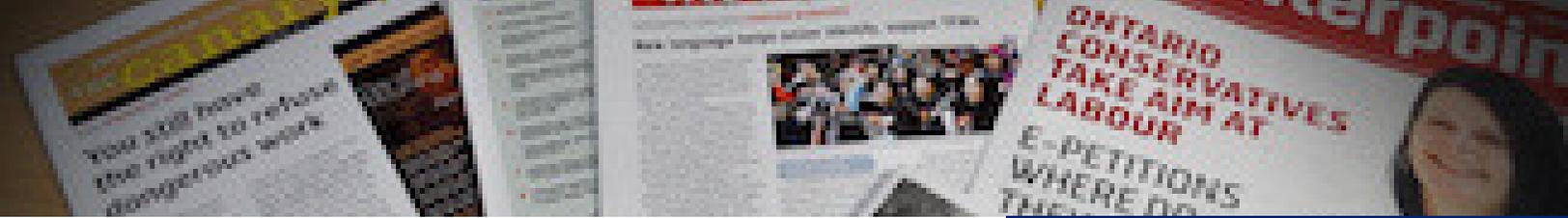
Working with pension experts, participants explored their legal duties and their political power to protect strong pensions. The week-long training looked at how pension plans are governed, the rights and responsibilities of trustees and advisory committee members, and the strategies that work to safeguard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



Order Online

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

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.
cavanadv.com

Universal Promotions
myunionstore.com/cupe.

Resources for CUPE locals and members



70,000

workers in NL that
make **LESS THAN**
\$15/h

\$15 and Fairness NL

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.



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 bit.ly/2FKYoY7.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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 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: 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: nl.cupe.ca