

May 2013

## TO ALL CUPE MEMBERS

### NATIONAL NURSING WEEK

May 6 – 12, 2013

Sisters and Brothers:

It's National Nursing Week. Across the country, CUPE is planning events to celebrate nursing team members' dedication and excellent work. We are also fighting for a new federal-provincial health accord that would allow nurses and other team members to provide the care Canadians need.

Nursing Week is a time for us to recognize nurses and other patient care staff, including our practical nurses, registered nurses, personal support workers, continuing care attendants, care aides and other members who make up the nursing team. On behalf of CUPE, we thank you for your tremendous work.

CUPE nursing team members work under difficult circumstances to care for patients in homes, community agencies and health care facilities across the country. Conditions are deteriorating as provinces cut and privatize services, and federal funding cuts loom with the health accord expiring next year.

CUPE has launched a national campaign to protect, strengthen and improve Medicare – and nursing team members are an important part of this fight.

Sister Sherry Hillier of Local 879 in St. John's, one of many CUPE members lobbying for a new health accord, tells us:

“Without federal funding and national standards, we'll be left with 13 different health care systems and a race to privatize. As a licensed practical nurse, and as a trade unionist, I won't let that happen.”

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Nursing team members like Sister Hillier dedicate themselves to patients at the bedside, and they fight to improve Medicare through their union. To all of our nursing team members, CUPE applauds your commitment to caring, and we re-dedicate ourselves to Medicare.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CHARLES FLEURY  
National Secretary-Treasurer