

May 2015

## TO ALL CUPE MEMBERS

### NATIONAL NURSING WEEK: “NURSES: WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY” May 11 – 17, 2015

Sisters and Brothers:

We are writing to wish you a very happy National Nursing Week 2015. Nursing week is a chance to recognize nurses for the way they all help to keep the pulse of Canada’s health care system strong!

On behalf of all members, we thank nursing staff for providing dedicated nursing care upon which patients and all Canadians depend. Across Canada, our public health care system relies on the work of CUPE nurses and health care workers. Their clinical skills and professionalism are matched only by the empathy, compassion, and commitment to quality care that they bring to their patients every day.

Let there be no doubt, the work you do is enormously important and appreciated!

CUPE proudly represents tens of thousands of Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). We are also very proud to count several hundred Registered Nurses (RNs) as CUPE members.

We applaud CUPE members and staff who have worked for decades to advance LPN, RPN and RN issues. These include: fighting for proper workloads and staffing; advocating for full utilization of our skills; negotiating higher shift premiums and compensation increases; and collaborative or team nursing.

CUPE nurses continue to be on the frontlines of the fight for high quality public healthcare. Here are some highlights from the past year:

- In Saskatchewan, CUPE released a report “*CUPE LPNs: A Practical Solution to the Nursing Shortage*”. CUPE LPNs met with the Saskatchewan Minister of Health, and Regional Health Authority Boards, to discuss the report’s findings.

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PAUL MOIST – National President / Président national CHARLES FLEURY – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

FRED HAHN – DANIEL LÉGÈRE – LUCIE LEVASSEUR – KELLY MOIST – MARLE ROBERTS – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidences générales

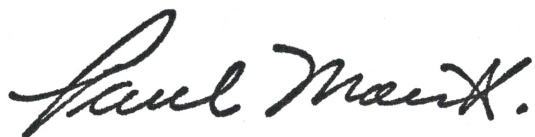


- In Nova Scotia, CUPE and other unions won a health care bargaining council and defeated the province's undemocratic restructuring plans. Instead of having their rights trampled and being dictated to by the government, Nova Scotia's nurses and other health workers defended their right to remain members of their chosen unions.
- In Ontario, CUPE nurses have been actively fighting health care service cuts and to keep rural and small hospitals open. CUPE nurses rallied in Almonte to protest nursing cuts, and elsewhere we stood in solidarity with home care nurses who were on strike.
- In New Brunswick, CUPE nursing staff have been active in CUPE's actions to defend public health care and the fight for pay equity especially in the home care sector. After many years of working to include casuals in our collective agreement, we won!
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, CUPE's voice is being heard in the province's "*Initiative to Enhance Recruitment and Retention of LPNs*" to address the acute shortage of LPNs. And CUPE's Newfoundland and Labrador LPNs will join with other CUPE members in the national fight for public health care when the Premiers' Council of the Federation meets in St. John's in July.
- And CUPE nurses in other provinces have also been active advancing LPN, RPN, and RN issues.

CUPE will continue to fight for LPN, RPN and RN issues as we've done in the past. At present, we are campaigning for a new national Health Accord which is needed to ensure proper funding. You can learn more by visiting the following website [SaveOurHealthCare.ca](http://SaveOurHealthCare.ca). CUPE will be active in the coming months to remind Canadians that in the upcoming federal election it is more important than ever that we need to vote for the party that is the strongest supporter of public health care.

Thank you to all CUPE's nurses for your hard work each and every day to deliver public health care and best wishes for a successful National Nursing Week.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CHARLES FLEURY  
National Secretary-Treasurer