

May 2011

## TO ALL CUPE NURSES

Sisters and Brothers:

### **HAPPY NURSES WEEK TO THE CUPE NURSING TEAM!**

**Nursing Week – May 9-15, 2011**

**Nurses Week – May 8-14, 2011 (Québec)**

The anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12 means that nursing week is being celebrated around the world. Nursing week is a time for us to thank and recognize all of our CUPE nurses and allied health care staff in the nursing team that includes: personal support workers, continuing care attendants, health care aides and others. Speaking on behalf of CUPE, we appreciate the fundamental work you do in meeting the health care needs of Canadians.

CUPE is proud to represent nurses throughout the country, including tens of thousands of registered and licensed practical nurses and other health care workers in the nursing team. CUPE is on the front lines with you working through lobbying and bargaining campaigns to create safe and professional workplaces for our nursing teams, other CUPE workers and patients, and advocating for the full utilization of LPNs/RPNs to their full scope of practice. Our achievements are significant:

- ✓ In British Columbia, the Hospital Employees' Union, CUPE's BC health services division, has secured a \$2.5 million grant from the BC Health Education Foundation for LPN education aimed at more effective utilization of LPNs. This funding will be used to enhance clinical competencies and to develop LPN leadership in residential care. It will also provide training for LPNs in renal, mental health, maternity, peri-operative and emergency as well as education and training for acute care aides.
- ✓ In Saskatchewan, the Provincial Employment Strategy Committee, negotiated by CUPE, has funded over 1,500 applications totaling over \$1.9 million in training funds to help LPNs upgrade their skills. The committee has funded the Administration of Medications course, allowing LPNs to practice to full scope in the workplace and meet their licensing requirements, as well as provided funding for LPNs to train as operating room technicians and take courses such as health assessment, IV therapy and wound care.

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- ✓ In New Brunswick and Ontario today, LPNs/RPNs are working in all settings such as: community, medical clinics, phlebotomy, rehabilitation, emergency, surgical, medicine, pediatrics, maternity, long-term care, dialysis, endoscopy, and other day clinics. Medication administration is practiced by LPNs/RPNs in all nursing homes and is now being practiced in many settings within hospitals. Several LPNs/RPNs are practicing advanced skills by furthering their education such as advanced foot care certification and leadership.
- ✓ In Ontario, the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU), the CUPE hospital bargaining council, held seven regional meetings throughout the province to engage RPN members and to hear their stories. Practice concerns and bargaining priorities were discussed. Their annual RPN conference shares information with RPNs about changes in policy at the College of Nurses of Ontario, community college programs, and at the RPN Association of Ontario.

CUPE Nurses and other health care workers make up a nursing team that responds to the health care needs of all of us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your high quality health care practice gains you respect in all areas of health care – whether it be in community settings or in people's homes, long-term care or in hospitals. CUPE applauds your passion and commitment to caring, and remains committed to advocating with you for full scope of practice and high quality working and caring environments.

Again, best wishes for nursing week and CUPE salutes you!

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CLAUDE G  N  REUX  
National Secretary-Treasurer