

April 1, 2022

Negotiations & Proposals – Thank you & Call for Volunteers

We want to thank all of our members for their attendance at the recent General Membership meeting where the negotiation proposals were presented. We understand the meeting went much longer than scheduled and we value and appreciate all of your time and patience with us as it was not anticipated that the presentation would run that long. We have taken all of the feedback from the meeting along with the corrections identified to the proposals and the adjustments have been made.

All of the proposals presented were from items, suggestions, articles, etc. which had been submitted to the Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) from yourselves and your fellow members. The Executive then worked with the NAC and NSUPE legal to compile the articles for presentation to HRM and brought everything back to the membership for your review and approval. We have heard your feedback concerning the approval process of the proposals and the monetary component. Moving forward we are committed to looking at a revised approval process for the bargaining proposals.

Since we are still waiting for HRM to set bargaining dates, we are looking to work with some volunteers willing to help out with researching supporting statistics to build a case to increase the ask for a higher wage percentage. If you feel strongly that Local 13 should be asking for a higher wage increase when we go to the bargaining table, please see the attached Call to Action.

Benefit Re-Enrolment Time

There have been some adjustments to our Medavie Blue Cross benefits packages surrounding Dependent Life Insurance which is now mandatory and becomes effective today April 1st. You should see these changes on your paystub for April 21st. Please take the time to review your coverage and ensure you are satisfied with your current services and programs. You are eligible to make changes to your benefits until **April 14th** by returning the complete form to MyHR@halifax.ca. After the renewal period closes, you will need a “qualified Life Event” to have occurred to adjust your benefits. Please see the attached Benefit Re-enrolment Newsletter for more information.

Duke Tower Elevators – Out of Order

Due to a fire in the elevator electrical room in Duke Tower; the elevators are currently out of commission. If you have to visit the HRM offices located on the 3rd, 4th, or 7th floors and have health or mobility issues, please reach out to those you may be visiting in the offices or your managers to make alternate arrangements until the repairs have been completed. There was a health scare since the decommission of the elevators which brought this issue to our attention, so please, be careful and aware that seven flights of stairs are a lot if dealing with a health scare or emergency.

April is Tax Time – T2200

For the past two years, many (but not all) of us having been working at least a portion of our hours at home. As a result those who have worked at home can take advantage of the CRA deduction for working at home by filling out form T2200; available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/t2200.html> for you to download and fill out (or attached). If you have issues with sign-off from your supervisor or manager reach out to a member of the Local 13 Executive and we can help with the process.

NSUPE Local 13 Member Communication

<https://nsupe.ca/local-13/>

Ramadhan Kareem!

Alhamdulillah! The blessed month of Ramadan is upon us once again! For Muslims across the globe, these few weeks are a sacred time for worshipping Allah. This year, Ramadan begins on Friday 1st April and end on Sunday 1st May.

The holy month of Ramadan offers the opportunity for devotion, reflection and celebration of the mercy and love of Allah. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar. Healthy adult Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn until dusk. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger. Other acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during the holy month.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the blessed month of Ramadan. This year Eid al-Fitr will be celebrated on the evening of Monday 2nd May with the sighting of moon of Shawwal (the 10th month of Islamic Calendar) and continue for three days.

Autism Awareness Month

April is World Autism Month, an annual opportunity for a dedicated conversation about autism spectrum disorder. Autism touches more than 70 million people globally. Approximately 1 in 66 children and youth are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Canada and this number continues to grow. In 2008, The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day — many countries around the world light up their landmarks blue to help increase understanding and acceptance of people with Autism. In 2012, the Canadian Parliament passed the World Autism Awareness Day Act recognizing April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day. Join us in celebrating April 2nd and the whole month of April by showing your support.

<https://www.autismspeaks.ca/>

Discounts \$\$

As a valued member of Local 13 you benefit from various savings and discounts offered to unions and their members. Check out <https://nsupe.ca/member-resources-2/discounts/> to see the different savings and benefits which are offered to NSUPE members (Lawtons, downtown Halifax Hilton Hotels, Mark's, Park'N Fly, etc.) at no extra cost to you!