

NSUPE Local 13 Member Communication

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

**April 14, 2022**

**Benefit Re-Enrolment Time – Deadline for changes today April 14<sup>th</sup>**

There have been some adjustments to our Medavie Blue Cross benefits packages surrounding Dependent Life Insurance, it is now mandatory and became effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. You should see these changes on your paystub for April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>** by returning the complete form to [MyHR@halifax.ca](mailto: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.

**Call for Action**

Thank you to the three members who have stepped forward to volunteer their time to work with Vice President Nick Peters on the Call to Action for Negotiations. We are still looking for more members to help with this cause. This is your opportunity to help out on an issue which you are all passionate about, **your** compensation.

*To better prepare for upcoming negotiations the union needs your help. We are all well aware the cost of living has been increasing dramatically in Canada and especially Nova Scotia.*

*We want to advocate hard for better compensation but to do so we need to demonstrate how HRM has not been keeping up with the cost of living.*

*We are putting a call out to members to help us prove that we need better.*

*Are you frustrated with how expensive life is becoming? Do you feel like your compensation has not been keeping up? Do you want to help us negotiate a fairer wage?*

*Help us! We need some members to volunteer and crunch the numbers for us to demonstrate the rising costs of utilities, groceries, housing, and fuel!*

*If we can show that all these necessities have increased across the board over the last 5 years and put forward the percentage increase, we will be able to leverage this data to demand fairer compensation from HRM.*

*They will try to argue that we deserve less and they will back up their arguments with their own numbers. We need to be ready with hard data that unequivocally proves that housing costs have risen by X%, groceries have gone up by X%, fuel, electricity, and taxes have all risen and we are falling behind!*

*We would need Nova Scotia specific data, as costs in this province have increased dramatically more than most of Canada. It would be helpful to have data on the past 4-5 years to compare cost of living increases to what compensation increases were.*

*If the cost of living increased by an average of 5% per year and our compensation only increased by 2.5% per year we can indisputably prove that not only are we not getting compensated enough, we are losing money!*

*Volunteering to help gather and analyse this data is one of the most powerful ways we can fight for what we all want: To live healthy, happy lives in the city we all love.*

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*If you want to help us win a better outcome for all please get in touch with Nick Peters ([nickjonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:nickjonpeters@gmail.com)) or Facebook as he will be coordinating the research team.*

*In solidarity.*

### **Duke Tower Elevators – Back in Service**

We have heard that all of the elevators in Duke Tower are now back in operation. Thanks for your patience while Crombie worked to repair after the fire in the electrical room. Safe travels!

### **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.

### **Passover April 15-23**

Passover, also called Pesach is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, which occurs on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the first month of Aviv, or spring. The word *Pesach* or *Passover* can also refer to the Korban Pesach, the paschal lamb that was offered when the Temple in Jerusalem stood; to the Passover Seder, the ritual meal on Passover night; or to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. One of the biblically ordained Three Pilgrimage Festivals, Passover is traditionally celebrated in the Land of Israel for seven days and for eight days among many Jews in the Diaspora, based on the concept of *yom tov sheni shel galuyot*. In the bible the seven-day holiday is known as Chag HaMatzot, the feast of unleavened bread (matzoh).

### **Easter April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in roughly 30 A.D. The holiday concludes the “Passion of Christ,” a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent—a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice—and ends with Holy Week, which includes Holy Thursday (the celebration of Jesus’ Last Supper with his 12 Apostles, also known as “Maundy Thursday”), Good Friday (on which Jesus’ crucifixion is observed) and Easter Sunday. Although a holiday of high religious significance in the Christian faith, many traditions associated with Easter date back to pre-Christian, pagan times.

### **HRM Summer Recreation Programs**

Summer camps are now online for parents to browse and plan for. Dryland Registration will open on April 27, 2022 at 10:00a.m. Employees NEED to have their accounts created and their discounts set up BEFORE April 27<sup>th</sup> for their accounts to be eligible for the 25% employee discount when registering for programs. Please reach out to your local Recreation Centre to check your account, 902-490-6666 or login in to confirm your account is up-to-date. For those members facing financial challenges who wish to seek funding assistance, there are opportunities to apply for funding assistance; reach out to your local Recreation Centre for more information or to apply.