

May 6, 2022

NSUPE Vice President – Dwayne Whynot

It is with a heavy heart that we share with our Local 13 members the NSUPE Vice President Dwayne Whynot passed away suddenly on May 3, 2022. Dwayne was a long-standing member of Local 16 Conway Workshop Association in Digby, serving multiple terms as President for Local 16 and recently stepping forward to become Vice President for NSUPE. Dwayne was passionate about membership engagement and community involvement, spearheading the first NSUPE beach clean-up day in Digby. Dwayne will be missed by his wife, two children, beloved dogs, friends, family, and union family. The Local 13 Executive sends condolences to those who knew Dwayne and thanks him for his commitment and dedication to NSUPE! Dwayne, you will be missed!!

Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada, a time to reflect on and recognize the many contributions that Canadians of Asian heritage have made and continue to make to Canada.

Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated since the 1990s. In December 2001, the Senate of Canada adopted a motion proposed by Senator Vivienne Poy to officially designate May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. In May 2002, the Government of Canada signed an official declaration to announce May as Asian Heritage Month.

Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for us to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love.

The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2022 is, “Continuing a legacy of greatness”. This month is a reminder for all Canadians to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms.

Happy Mother’s Day

To all of the Mothers, those who have accepted the roles of mothers, and those who help with the roles of Mothers, WE SALUTE YOU! It is no easy task looking after your family and loved ones while working and dealing with every day life. So to the superhero’s who keep the family going, we thank you! We hope you have a lovely Mother’s Day and get to enjoy some selfcare time!

MS Teams – HRM Software

Like any electronic communication tool, MS Teams has its Pros and its Cons. It has given us the ability to communicate with our co-workers, colleagues, supervisors, and managers without leaving our desks, virtually from remote locations, or discreetly without the knowledge of others. While HRM is committed to not recording or tracking your conversations, if your machine or device is in a public domain (i.e., the office) please be conscious of the fact that the information on your screen may be viewed and potentially captured by others (pictures). Reminder that MS Teams is HRM software and property, and they have the right to review when items are brought to their attention. So, we ask that everyone respect the professional privacy of their colleague’s device and communications. Please treat one another as you want to be treated; if you wish to have respect, dignity, and some semblance of professional privacy in the workplace, return the courtesy to your fellow members and colleagues.

End of School Year – Benefits

Do you have children who have been on your plan, but will soon graduate from their post-secondary institution? This will cause their eligibility to remain on the plan to expire; so, you may want to make sure they get in another visit to the dentist, fill any required prescriptions or visit the optometrist for new glasses **prior to** the coverage running out.

Dependent children are eligible for benefits if they are less than 21 years of age or, if 21 years of age but less than 26 years of age, they must be attending an accredited educational institution, college, or university on a full-time basis.

Unmarried, unemployed children 21 years of age or older qualify if they are dependent upon the employee by reason of a mental or physical disability and have been continuously so disabled since the age of 21. Unmarried, unemployed children who became totally disabled while attending an accredited educational institution, college, or university on a full-time basis prior to the age of 26 and have been continuously disabled since that time also qualify as a dependent

HRM Pension Plan VIRTUAL Session

The HRM Pension Plan welcomes you to join their VIRTUAL presentation on the general HRM Pension Plan benefits and features on **Monday May 30th at 6:00 p.m.** The session will be provided through Microsoft Teams and will last approximately 60-75 minutes. Whether you are newly hired, mid-career or approaching retirement, this pension information session is for you! **Note:** This is not a retirement readiness/financial planning session. It is a presentation of the HRM Pension Plan benefits and features. This session is open to current members of the HRM Pension Plan. **Advanced registration, along with a valid email address is required.** To register, contact the HRM Pension Plan Office by phone: 902-490-6213 or 1-888-490-6213 or at HRMpension@halifax.ca

**Please see attachment for specifics for registration.

Moose Hide Campaign Day – May 12

Moose Hide Campaign Day is a day of ceremony. It's a day where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation.

What started 11 years ago with a small gathering of men and boys intent on raising awareness of the crisis of violence against Indigenous woman and children, has now become a national ceremony inviting all Canadians to join together to end violence against all women and children.

On Moose Hide Campaign Day we challenge men and boys--and we invite all Canadians--to fast together from sunrise to sunset to deepen our experience and resolve to create safe families, communities and a safe country for all women and children.

To learn more or to register to participate go to <https://moosehidecampaign.ca/get-involved/moose-hide-campaign-day>

Tick Season

They're back!!! With many of us out beginning to enjoy yard work, walking in parks, or even just in our day-to-day work completing site visits, we may be in areas and environments where we would be potentially exposed to ticks. Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They are very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten. Visit <https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety/> to learn more about ways to reduce your risk for getting a tick on you how to check for ticks and removal of a tick should you find one. We want to all enjoy the outdoors safely!