

UNION OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

Bulletin

December 7, 2005

New Appointments on the Union Executive Board

With the unexpected departure of Aaron Crowhurst as Union President, the Council has now appointed Vice President, Sherry Moller as President until the next Annual General meeting in May 2006. This has also led to a reshuffling of members on the Executive and the addition of a new Executive Board member. At the November 23rd Council meeting, the new Executive Board was appointed as follows:

President	Sherry Moller
Vice President	Don Getz
Treasurer	Karen Wysiecki
Director	Philip Oosterman
Director	Allan "Max" Davidson

Public Service Contract Ratified

With the 12th Master Agreement now ratified by an 85% margin, we are now in the process of proofing the new contract before signing it off. We are expecting to have the contract signed within the next week or two and will then send it to the printers. We hope to see the new agreement out to the membership by late January to early February.

In the meantime, I have been working with the BCNU in developing a joint contract interpretation manual that we will be placing on the web site once it is completed and we will be providing our Union Stewards with copies to assist them in serving the membership. We hope to have this ready by early January.

New Privacy Policy Implemented

At the November 23rd Council meeting, the Council adopted a new privacy policy to ensure that the Union is in compliance with current legislation. This policy is now on the UPN website and can be found under Collective Agreements & Policies. Should you have any questions regarding this policy or concerns about the protection of your personal information within the UPN, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the Union office as I have also been appointed as the UPNs Privacy Officer.

Safety Concerns with Wearing Lanyards

More and more facilities are no longer allowing the use of lanyards unless they have three breaks (one on each side, and one at the back). This is due to safety concerns presented at different work sites. If this is a concern at your work site, you should refrain from wearing them unless you can modify them to meet the new standard.

Health Sector Bargaining Set to Begin Soon

With the announcement last week by Finance Minister Carole Taylor regarding the Province's new negotiating framework we are now preparing to move into collective bargaining as soon as practically possible. The Finance Minister advised that the government has allotted \$5.7 billion to support public sector compensation agreements over the next four years. She also noted that a further \$1 billion would be available this year for agreements that were reached before the contract expired.

What this means for us is that there is money available for increased wages in the next contract and that there is additional money available if we get a contract quickly. That being said, we are now working furiously to get to the bargaining table in an expeditious manner and we will be working all out in the first three months of 2006 to reach a settlement that will bring increases to your wage package.

In the meantime, we have now received your surveys and we are in the process of going through the results in order to gain direction on what your needs are. Based on this, we will work toward finalizing our proposals. Thanks for the information and support.

Douglas McLaren
Director, Operations & Member Services