

May 2014

## **TO ALL CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS**

### **NATIONAL NURSING WEEK**

**May 12 – 18, 2014**

Sisters and Brothers:

We are writing to wish you a very happy National Nursing Week 2014. Nursing week is a chance to recognize all nurses for the indispensable frontline care that you provide. CUPE proudly represents tens of thousands of registered practical nurses (RPNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). We are also very proud to count several hundred registered nurses (RNs) as CUPE members.

On behalf of all members, we thank you for providing dedicated nursing care upon which all Canadians depend. Let there be no doubt: the work you do is enormously appreciated!

We applaud CUPE members and staff who have worked for decades to advance nursing team issues. These include: fighting for proper workloads and staffing; negotiating higher shift premiums and compensation increases; advocating for full utilization of our skills; and, collaborative or team nursing.

As well, some provinces and divisions will also be marking days recognizing the contribution of continuing care assistants (Saskatchewan, May 12<sup>th</sup>), care aides, and personal support workers (Ontario, May 20<sup>th</sup>). CUPE health care workers are skilled and dedicated professionals who work day in and out to provide excellent care for people in need.

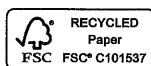
CUPE strongly supports multidisciplinary teamwork and full utilization of all team members. Our members know that health care workers are stronger when we bargain together.

On behalf of CUPE, we thank you for your tremendous work and we recognize that every health care worker is an irreplaceable member of the patient care team. We recommit to fighting for a health care system that allows for every team member to engage fully in providing high quality care.

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**PAUL MOIST** – National President / Président national **CHARLES FLEURY** – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

**FRED HAHN – DANIEL LÉGÈRE – LUCIE LEVASSEUR – KELLY MOIST – MARLE ROBERTS** – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidences générales



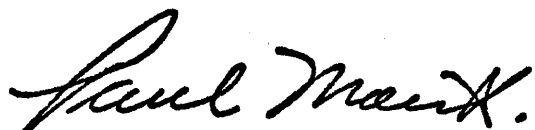
CUPE nurses continue to be on the frontlines of the fight for high quality public healthcare. Here are just some highlights:

- In Saskatchewan, CUPE nurses completed a job evaluation process to recognize new duties and skills. Nurses are developing and implementing strategies to tackle workload and understaffing concerns.
- In Ontario, the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU), the CUPE hospital bargaining council, is helping our members obtain professional liability insurance. OCHU and CUPE Ontario organized a successful RPN conference January 20 to 22, 2014 where RPN leadership roles, compensation, new collective agreement language on workload, and social media were discussed.
- In New Brunswick, CUPE works in committee with the NB LPN Association to ensure LPNS have equitable resources and time to complete the medication course requirements by 2015.
- In Nova Scotia, CUPE has strongly opposed recent essential services legislation affecting nurses and all healthcare workers. CUPE continues to fight the 'Superboards' proposal that seeks to centralize administration to the detriment of communities.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, a newly negotiated CUPE collective agreement means a significant market adjustment for LPN wages, substantial increases to shift differentials and a more than \$10-per-shift increase to standby pay as well as an occupational review for LPNs.
- And CUPE nurses in other provinces have also been active advancing LPN, RPN, and RN issues.

Your union will continue to fight for nursing issues as we've done in the past. At present, we are campaigning for a new national Health Accord which is needed to ensure proper funding and higher standards for public health care. You can learn more by visiting: [SaveOurHealthCare.ca](http://SaveOurHealthCare.ca).

So, a big thank you to CUPE's nurses and all patient care team members for your hard work each and every day to deliver public health care and best wishes for a successful National Nursing Week.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST  
National President

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CHARLES FLEURY  
National Secretary-Treasurer