



## CONTENTS

### PAGE 1

“Contracting-In” Our Work

### PAGE 2

HTU Strike Over

Local 227 Social

Union Meetings

A Prime Selfie

Small Systems Water Plants

### PAGE 3

CUPE Education

CUPE NS Convention

CUPE NS Election Results

### PAGE 4

Refusing Unsafe Work

Everyone’s Responsibility

## CUPE Local 227 Quarterly Newsletter



*Pictured - Br. Tim DeWolfe – CSO Mann Street*

### “Contracting-In” Our Work

**Submitted By - Brother Mike Vardy**

On a hot summer day when a 30” butterfly valve had to be picked up from a contractor who was doing work on our 30” transmission main, Br. Anthony Riley suggested giving the wastewater department a call to see if a boom truck was available to lend a hand.

Br. Tim DeWolfe was quick to oblige and met Br. Anthony and Br. Mike Vardy on site to pick up the 30” valve and deliver it to the Stokil Drive Reservoir.

After dropping off the valve Br. Anthony noticed that two M-67 complete hydrants were over the side of the bank and with the help of Br. Tim they boomed them back to level ground.

This was a great use of resources to “Contract-In” work. By working together, these Brothers showed that the two departments can team-work. Great job!



## HTU Strike Over!



CUPE Local 227 wishes the best for members of the HTU. They recently ended their emotional strike with the Chronicle Herald. These members showed us all inspiring strength, courage and solidarity during the ordeal.

Over the months CUPE Local 227 members had participated in rally's, walked the picket lines and donated monies to the HTU to show our support.



## LOCAL 227 SOCIAL

**Date:** Saturday  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 1pm-5pm

**Place:** Dooly's  
Burnside

**CUPE Local 227 members are invited to a free fun day of pool and socializing at Dooly's Pool Hall in Burnside. Bring your spouse or significant other. Finger Foods will be provided but drinks are on you. We will have lots of prizes! Hope to see you all there!!**

## Union Meetings

**CUPE Local 227 Monthly Membership Meetings** are open to all Local 227 members.

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 5pm at the CUPE Atlantic Regional Office, 271 Brownlow Avenue in Dartmouth.



We always provide food/drink and you could win a prize just for attending!

Congratulations to Br. Richard Brown, PSSP Cowie Hill, on winning the July prize of a \$25 gift card.

**REMEMBER - YOU ARE THE UNION!**



Hey, everyone say cheese!

CUPE Local 227 members at the Halifax Plant recently took a selfie with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (members pictured l-r) Br. Brian Chinn, Br. Jason Fraughton and Br. Adam Bryson.

## Small Systems Water Plants

**Submitted By- Brother Todd Masters**

Small Systems is run by three operators; Brothers Todd Masters, Kevin Kelloway and Steve Woodman as well as our float Sister Lisa Misner who we share with the Bennery Lake Plant. We take care of 7 water treatment plants which are on wells, lakes and rivers. We also take care of 10 reservoirs, 7 re-chlorination stations and 15 stations that measure chorine residual. We work a three-week rotation for being on-call so that our plants have someone available 365 days a year. The plants are spread out in the HRM from Middle Musquodoboit to Cow Bay, Hubley and everywhere between.



Did you know that CUPE provides Union Education? Workshops are available on numerous topics and are available to all Local 227 members at no cost to the member. If you are interested in attending a workshop please contact a Shop Steward or an Executive member.

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Sept 23-24 Stewarding; an Introduction

Oct 14-15 Stewarding Learning Series

Oct 28-29 Health & Safety; an Introduction

Nov 18-19 Steward Learning Series

## CUPE Local 227 Members at CUPE Nova Scotia Convention

CUPE Nova Scotia recently held their Annual Convention. This year it was in Truro.

CUPE Local 227 had 4 members in attendance; Sr. Belinda Dickson, Br. Martin Austin, Br. Anthony Riley and Br. Dave Dort.



Sr. Belinda Dickson (pictured) and Br. Joel Haley from CUPE Local 1431 did the **Annual Toast to Public Water** where delegates at convention pledge to support public water over bottled water.

Delegates engaged in many thorough discussions during the convention including the need to increase the province's minimum

wage to \$15/hour, a resolution submitted by CUPE Local 108.

Delegates supported resolutions on the merits of public water and water justice. The CUPE Nova Scotia Global Justice Committee sponsored a resolution encouraging locals to organize to declare their municipalities "Blue Communities" and to fight the bottled water industry.

CUPE Local 227 meanwhile, brought forward the call to continue to campaign for water justice for Indigenous Communities, noting that 73 percent of Indigenous Communities are at high or medium risk of waterborne contamination.

CUPE Local 227 also brought forward an opposition to Seasonal Disinfection at wastewater treatment plants located on Halifax Harbour.

Both resolutions passed.

## Election Results

*CUPE Nova Scotia Division Executive*

Nan McFadgen, president of CUPE Nova Scotia, was re-elected at the union's 54th annual convention on May 31, 2017 in Truro.

Other election results are as follows:

- Dave Dort, recording secretary
- Donna Vankroonenburg, three-year trustee
- Chris Melanson, area vice-president, Halifax
- Marcy Vacon, area vice-president, Yarmouth
- Liz Paris, equity vice-president

## New Logo for CUPE NS



Delegates attending convention voted in favour of updating the CUPE NS logo as seen above.

## Health & Safety Tips

### Refusing unsafe work

The right to refuse unsafe work is one of the three basic health and safety rights achieved by the labour movement, along with the right to know about the hazards in your workplace, and the right to participate in workplace health and safety decisions.

Procedures and circumstances around the right to refuse vary from province to province. Below you'll find the steps you should take to refuse unsafe work in your jurisdiction.

#### **You have the legal right to a healthy and safe workplace.**

As a worker in Nova Scotia, you have the legal right to refuse unsafe work, according to Section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, when there are reasonable grounds to

believe that the work condition, equipment, material, or any aspect of the work may be dangerous to you or another person's health and safety.

#### **Here's how you can refuse unsafe work:**

**Notify your supervisor at the worksite, and state your reason for refusal.**

**Where the matter is not remedied to your satisfaction, report it to your workplace health and safety committee or the worker health and safety representative.**

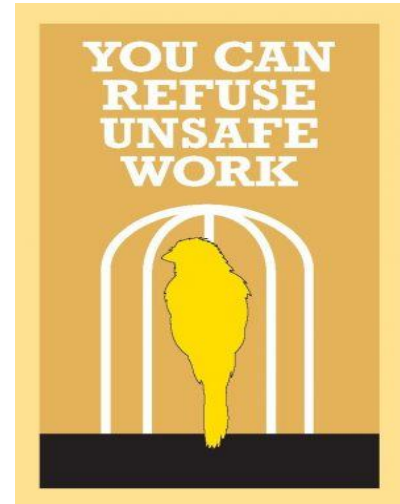
**If you are not satisfied with the remedy, contact the Department of Labour and Advanced Education to speak with an officer about the refusal.**

**The officer shall investigate the complaint, and document actions taken in a written report. A copy of the report must be provided to you.**

**If you are not satisfied with the officer's report, you may appeal the report within 30 days, and request a review by the Occupational Health and Safety Council.**

**You cannot be threatened or discriminated against through dismissal, reprimand or reduction of either wages or benefits for complying with the legislation, according to section 45 of the act.**

See other health and safety fact sheets at: [CUPE.ca/health-and-safety-fact-sheets](http://CUPE.ca/health-and-safety-fact-sheets)



Contact us: Dave Dort, President, 902-237-0125, [edavedort@hotmail.com](mailto:edavedort@hotmail.com)

## Everyone's Responsibility

By Sister Colette Cleary, Main Safety Committee Chair

Union interest in health and safety frequently results in a positive collaboration with employers to reduce worker injuries and improve productivity. To this end, joint occupational health and safety committees are most effective when the message that is being shared is the same. Safe work practices are everyone's responsibility and as union members, our foremost concern is for the safety of ourselves and our co-workers. To ensure the employers commitment to safety programs and implementation we must continue to voice our concerns, record near-misses and demand safety practices that exceed OH&S requirements. We must persevere in our demand of these same safe practices by contractors and we must remain diligent in our pursuit of an injury-free workplace for all our members.

Local 227," We've got your back."