



## CUPE Local 227 Quarterly Newsletter

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### Spring Has Finally Arrived

### CUPE Local 227's History

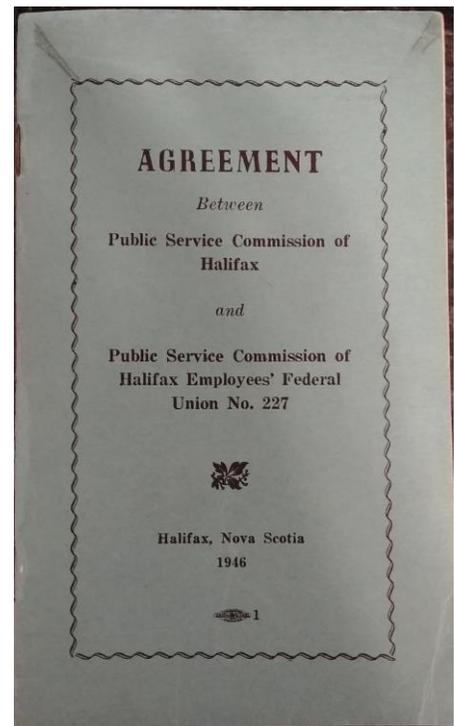
In 1946 Local 227 was known as the **Public Service Commission of Halifax Employees' Federal Union No. 227 of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada**. Our president at the time was F. F. Kidney and our Recording Secretary was R. J. Kiteley.

In the contract with the employer, the Public Service Commission of Halifax, #6 says that the PPE provided at the time by the employer included: goggles, gasmasks, rubber suits and boots.

Paid holidays recognized at the time were: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Dominion Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day

and Christmas Day.

Hours of work were 8am - 5pm and 5pm – 8am.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



2018 CUPE Nova Scotia Convention May 27-30, 2018 Halifax



2018 CUPE Atlantic Weeklong School May 6-11, 2018 Baddeck



2018 CUPE Nova Scotia All Committees Conference October 18-21, 2018 Truro



2018 Nova Scotia Federation of Labour Convention Fall 2018 Halifax

## 6 Week Strike – York University

As a labour dispute between York University and their academic workers moves into its sixth week, the union representing York's striking teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants said the two sides remain no closer to reaching a deal.

"York University has consistently refused to bargain," said Lina Nasr, a member of the Bargaining Team for CUPE 3903.

At a Queen's Park press conference, Nasr, CUPE 3903 Chairperson Devin Lefebvre and CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn noted that while the Union has repeatedly requested a resumption of negotiations since the strike began on March 5, York University has refused.

"Throughout the past six weeks, the clearest path to a resolution has gone through a bargaining table...instead of taking the clearest path, York University has tried shortcut after shortcut," said Hahn.

Members of CUPE 3903 overwhelmingly rejected York's most recent offer in a supervised ratification vote demanded by the University.

CUPE 3903's bargaining team remains ready and available to resume negotiations.

A strike by workers at Carleton University, which also began in the beginning of March, ended last week after both sides negotiated an agreement that was overwhelmingly ratified by workers.

"Carleton University resolved their dispute because the parties agreed to sit down at a table and work through what were very significant differences. If Carleton can do this, so can York," said Hahn.

### Discounts on your Smart Phone for CUPE Nova Scotia Members...hey that's us!

Local 227 members you can view and redeem savings from a variety of merchants available on your smart phone. Powered by **Endless Savings & More** (ESM). Install the CUPE Nova Scotia version of the app on your smart phone to view available savings. Tap on any merchant to view actual offers and tap on any offer for redemption details. For offers at physical locations, show the offer on your smart phone at payment. For phone or online offers, mention or enter a promotional code at payment. Go to your app store (Google or Apple) on your smartphone. In your app store, look for "Endless Savings and More (ESM)".



## CUPE Local 227 Regular Membership Meetings

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.

Congratulations to Brother Richard Brown, PSSP Cowie, on winning the April 2018 prize of a \$25 gift card.

**REMEMBER - YOU ARE THE UNION**

Healthcare set representative employees COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Process Negotiation Agreement Productive Working Hours Terms Rules Employee Union Workers Contract Participation

### Local 227 Bargaining

The Local 227 Bargaining Committee is already working hard on the behalf of Local 227 Members. A survey was developed and Members responded to it, the data has been collected, the review of the current Collective Agreement language is ongoing and very soon proposals will be drafted for review by the Local 227 Membership. Look for the Bargaining Bulletin posted on bulletin boards in your depot.

### Local 227 Bargaining Committee

Colette Cleary – Bissett Depot  
 Martin Austin – Herring Cove  
 Todd Masters – Small Systems  
 Anthony Riley – Park Avenue  
 Dave Dort – Dartmouth  
 Govind Rao – CUPE National

### Local 227 Executive Board

With elections come changes. Say hello to the Local 227 Executive Board.

**Membership Officer** – Derrick Langille

**Secretary Treasurer** – Belinda Dickson

**Recording Secretary** – Dwayne Bell

**Vice-President** – Martin Austin

**Vice-President** – John Keirstead

**President** – Dave Dort

### Local 227 Trustees

**1-Year** – Jim McEachren

**2-Year** – Anthony Riley

**3-Year** – Justin Forbes



## National Day of Mourning

This year marks 34 years since CUPE's National Health and Safety Committee first proposed the idea of a National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job.

April 28 was proclaimed by then-National President Jeff Rose at a health and safety conference in early 1985. In the same year, the Canadian Labour Congress and affiliated unions adopted the day across Canada.

On each Day of Mourning, CUPE honours the members who died on the job. Over the past year, CUPE lost the following members:

- Judy Lavallee, Local 1550, Manitoba
- Wayne Harland, Local 500, Manitoba
- Tyson Titanich, Local 2515, Alberta
- Wayne Hornquist, Local 2093, British Columbia
- Lloyd Smith, Local 873, British Columbia
- Robert Boulet, Local 301, Quebec
- James Baragar, Local 100, Ontario
- Diane Chicoine, Local 416, Ontario

### What is Hydrogen Sulfide?

By-CUPE National

Hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) is a dangerous gas. It is created as a by-product in many industrial processes and occurs naturally through the decomposition of organic matter. It is commonly known as sewer gas.

At lower concentrations, H<sub>2</sub>S has a distinctive rotten-egg odour, but smell is a poor warning sign. While initially workers can smell H<sub>2</sub>S, they can be quickly acclimated to the smell (known as olfactory fatigue) which quickly numbs the sense of smell.

H<sub>2</sub>S is slightly heavier than air and is therefore especially

dangerous in low-lying areas, including confined or enclosed workspaces where it can displace normal atmosphere.

Most exposure occurs by inhalation. Poisoning occurs when the amount absorbed in the blood exceeds the rate at which it is eliminated.

Sub-acute exposure (exposure to lower levels) may result in headaches, dizziness, loss of balance, agitation, nausea, diarrhea. Chronic poisoning (repeated exposure to low levels) may result in symptoms that include slowed pulse rate, fatigue, insomnia, cold sweat, eye infections, loss of weight and skin eruptions.

At higher concentrations, workers

might notice a sweet smell, but at greater concentrations, H<sub>2</sub>S can “paralyze” the sense of smell and workers can lose the ability to smell. The air should always be monitored by instruments designed to detect H<sub>2</sub>S.

CUPE members who perform work in places where organic material breaks down without oxygen are at greatest risk. These places include sewers, sewage treatment plants and other similar places. However, due to the nature of H<sub>2</sub>S gas, workers who perform excavation work are also at risk.

**H<sub>2</sub>S is a deadly hazard. The safest exposure to H<sub>2</sub>S is no exposure at all.**



Trench stability is affected by a number of factors, such as soil type, moisture content, depth of the trench, length of time during which the trench is left open, previous excavations or soil disturbances and vibration and excessive weight from heavy equipment nearby. Trench-related fatalities can also be caused by falls, exposure to hazardous gases, drowning, falling equipment or materials and electrocution. Stay safe!

OHS Canada

**SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

