PPE Allowance – Employer seeking to get out of the “PPE Game”

The employer has brought forward a bargaining proposal in which they will no longer provide PPE that is essential for members to work safely. Instead of being provided with PPE, the Employer wants to give a cash allowance. The cash allowance members would receive would depend on their position in the bargaining unit and would range between $300 and $600 dollars.

$300 to $600 may sound great but members need an extensive list of PPE to do the work of the Employer. Currently members can receive two pairs of boots, asphalt boots, rubber boots, a winter jacket, winter coveralls, a rain suit, coveralls and ARC Flash coveralls. Members would now have to buy this with $300 to $600 dollars. Work boots alone would consume most of the employer’s proposed cash allowance with no bulk purchasing power.

Furthermore, if the PPE that you purchased is damaged doing the work of the Employer there is no commitment that they would help in the replacement. Local 227 members work hard and in harsh work environments that can lead to damaged clothing – the Employer is seeking to make this our problem, not theirs.

What’s more is new members that are just hired would only receive a pro-rated portion of the clothing allowance, but would still need to buy all of the PPE and clothing required to do the work of the Employer all at once.

The Employer says it isn’t about the money, but clearly our PPE and the security of knowing that those working next to us will have the gear needed to do the job is worth more than a small, once a year payment.

If this concerns you, you need to let us know!

CUPE Local 227 SPECIAL MEETING, November 13, 2018, Delta Hotel, 240 Brownlow Ave., Dartmouth, 5pm.

In SOLIDARITY, Your Local 227 Bargaining Committee