

NL/NS NVP Report

May 2020

Brothers, sisters and friends,

On March 17, 2020 our lives started to change due to COVID-19. The employer starting sending people home to work. Our way of doing business had changed.

On March 18, 2020 the AUMCC group started having conference calls daily, with the NVPs. After a week they were held every second day, then went weekly then by-weekly and now they are monthly. During these calls we got updates on measures put in place for our members in the workplace or telework arrangements. It also gave us the opportunity to pass on our members concerns to the employer.

We are now having regular meetings with management to get update on the reactivation of Service Canada. Have regular national calls with IRCC on their reopening plan.

We still try our best to get information out to the members. This would not be possible without the help of our dedicated presidents and executive members. I would like to thank everyone for all the work you do for our members. And being there to support our members during this unprecedented times. We have had conference calls in the region with the presidents to give updates and we continue to this on a regular basis.

We have had AGM/Membership meetings via conference calls and planning to start having them via Zoon. We are planning to have one next week via Zoom.

Our region continues to be busy and I work with the dedicated local presidents, executives, stewards and NURs. Since my last report I have attended AGMs and Local meetings whenever possible. We have some new presidents and executive members as a result of new elections, and I would like to welcome everyone.

We were saddened to learn of the tragic events that transpired in Nova Scotia April 18/19 2020, when 22 lives were taken many others injured. During that difficult time we reached out to members and offered our support.

Since my last report we only had one regular AUMCC. This meeting was held in St. John's, NL November 18, 2019

We have regular meetings with some of the different business lines in the regions to discuss issues/concerns of our members.

In September 2019, our NEVP, Crystal Warner, came to the region. Crystal and I attended a General Membership Meeting at Local 90113 and visited 4 of the local's 5 locations. We visited Local 90109 (Clareville location) and local 90114 (Harbour Grace). During our visits we met with the members answered questions and heard their concerns.

On October 23 & 24, 2019 we attended a Joint Learning Program (JLP) on Duty to Accommodate (DTA) in Halifax, NS. There were 80 participants, 40 union and 40 management. The participants were members who sit at the Local Union Management Meetings.

On October 25, 2019 CEIU NL/NS continued with a one day on DTA for the Presidents of NL/NS. On October 26 & 27, 2019 we held our NL/NS presidents conference.

In late November 2019 I attended PSAC National Health & Safety Conference in Montreal. This was my first experience with a national Health & Safety conference. I found the conference to be a very informative and have taken away great information.

February 14 & 15, 2020 we had an executive meeting for the NL/NS region in Halifax, NS.

February 27 & 28, 2019 attended representation training at the National CEIU office in Ottawa on behalf of the Atlantic Region.

Staffing continues to be an ongoing issue and we have talked about this at the AUMCC. There seems to be a lot of non-advertised acting appointments. If they are not using established pools, we ask them to provide an explanation of why they are not using the pool. A lot of managers are following this request, however there are still a few that need reminding.

There have been a number of Administrative Investigations in the region, resulting with discipline, including suspensions and terminations. This has been discussed when I attend local meetings and at our president's conference.

Phoenix continues to be an issue. Many members have issues with their pay, we have had some success with escalating pay problem up through the union. It is very unfortunate that our members are still experiencing problems with pay and I hope our bargaining team can get good compensation for our members.

I am very fortunate to be working closely with the NB/PEI NVP, Rhonda Rumson. Our regions make up the "Atlantic Region" and the issues are very similar, we continue to work as a team to help and support our members.

Debbie Morris

NVP NL/NS