June 11, 2020

To All CUPE Members,

Since March 12, 2020 the way we have lived and worked has been thrown upside down as we knew it and it remains that way today. We have made a lot of progressions in many small steps and we must keep doing that as time marches on over the next few months but we cannot let ourselves become complacent in this fight with COVID-19.

As we have seen happen unfortunately in the Campbellton Region needs to remind us that we still need to be vigilant when it comes to our personal safety both at work and home. The issues that are faced in Zone 5 are not the fault of the members working there and we should be mindful of that when we are using any type of social media platform to express frustration about the situation. Social Media posts can be literally taken in several ways and chances are that was not your intent from the beginning.

As a union you have stepped up to the plate for trying to find extra help for the LTC facility that is unfortunately dealing with a major outbreak of COVID 19 and that itself needs to be commended as it would not be an easy decision for many to allow their name to be put forward knowing that you are heading to a Hot-zone. Those decisions are not easily made especially when you must consider your health and that of others that are close to you be it family or friends. The union has done its best to provide you with as much information and protection as possible before you enter into this commitment and we will continue to follow you while you are there and up on your return to provide what help we may be able to.

As we move forward and progress through the stages of this virus, I urge you to maintain your awareness of the surroundings that you are in or may be asked to work in. This virus has not disappeared just because the government has begun to reopen programs and sectors, it is still there below the surface waiting to resurface at any time. We need to continue with all the safe practices that are in place and ask questions when they are not , asking why is not a bad thing. We need to keep our local executives informed of changes as well so they can address the issues immediately on your behalf.

One final thought , your Health and Safety is paramount not only for you but your family and co-workers but do not forget the importance of ones Mental Health. We can supply you all with the very best of Health and Safety protocols available, but they are not worth anything if we are not addressing the Mental Health side of the job. Anxiety, stress and fear are just some of the factors that many of you are dealing with daily and I personally ask that you do not let these things take over your life , seek HELP and reach out to the programs that are available within the workplace and as well through the province and the COVID 19 wed-site.

Stay Vigilant and Be Safe out there ,

Ralph McBride , Provincial Coordinator CUPE Local 1252