



Correctional
Officers and
Youth Facility
Workers
Representatives
Conference Call

May 12, 2020

The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) is a family of 11 Component and 3 affiliate unions. Taken together, we are one of the largest unions in Canada. Most of our 390,000 members work to deliver public services of every kind to the citizens of their home provinces. We also have a large and growing number of members who work for private businesses.

Larry Brown, President

Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer

**Correctional Officers and Youth Facility Workers Representatives
Conference Call
May 12, 2020
1:00 pm EDT**

PARTICIPANTS

SGEU/NUPGE

**Kim Picot
Pat Sander
Barry Nowoselsky**

MGEU/NUPGE

Chris Drosdoski

OPSEU/NUPGE

**Chris Jackel
Peter Harding
Tom Gibson
Jonathon Guider
Sandra Harper
Joscelyn Ross
Mike Fallon
Ryan Graham**

NAPE/NUPGE

Frank Pittman

NUPGE

**Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Temelini, National Representative
Nadia Ibrahim, National Representative**

1. Welcome and introductions

Michael Temelini, NUPGE National Representative, welcomed participants to the meeting. Past meeting notes and other relevant documents are shared via the Corrections and Youth Facility Workers - COVID-19 meetings [webpage](#).

2. Updates from Components

What follows is a summary of the general updates from Components. Information was shared in response to specific questions, which are consolidated below.

General Updates:

NAPE

- Situation seems to have settled and protocols seem to be working
- No issues with PPE
- COVID-19 units in place if needed.
- Isolation before being put in general population
- No positive cases
- A number of inmates on temporary absence. Down to approx. 60 at HMP
- Working towards a Good Neighbour Agreement with sheriffs (different bargaining unit than correctional officers) in the event of a positive case
- Youth: no cases, but protocols in place. Situation is still pretty good
- Question:
- Do you anticipate any staffing issues with reopening? (e.g. relief workers)
- Right now, there is an abundance of casual and relief workers. Reopening allows more movement of workers, so there isn't likely to be a staff shortage

OPSEU

- Most institutions are stable
- Protocols in place: active screening, enhanced cleaning
- Update on outbreak at Ontario Correctional Institute: MOA signed last week allowing for temporary transition of OCI's 160 employees to another institution, beginning last week. Some issues, but working through scheduling. Ministry has decided to keep the institution closed for the time being

MGEU

- Still no cases among inmates. A number of staff had to isolate, mostly due to travel
- Update on Environize foggers: employer started using to spray people and gowns. MGEU reached out to health and safety to intervene, as there is no approved use of the foggers on people or fabrics, just hard surfaces
- Inmate counts are still low
- Reopening has begun, but still restrictions in place
- Political context is a challenge: cuts in the public sector

SGEU

Youth:

- Protocols still in place
- Main update: as shared on previous calls, youth facilities didn't have 14-day isolation for new admissions like in adult centres, which was of concern. In the last week, it is now mandated that new admissions go into isolation for 14-days before going into general population. This is a big win.
- Issue with changing classification from secure custody to open custody before 14-day isolation. Youth were being moved out of intake unit to open custody without a proper assessment. This has been addressed, so 14-day isolation is required
- Reopening: more diligent on cleaning, restrictions, etc. to keep centres safe

Adult:

- Outbreak in La Loche, northern Saskatchewan, has the potential for risk to adult centre if there is an influx of intakes. The institution is preparing for possible cases

Question from NAPE: Are officers required to wear a mask for their 12-hour shifts?

Ontario: Required in adult. In youth, masks are supplied, but voluntary

Manitoba: Cloth masks required. Masks can only be taken off during breaks. N95 masks required in COVID-19 units. Inmates wear cloth masks when outside of cells

Saskatchewan: In youth, only required when dealing with symptomatic youth

3. Next Steps

Please send any documents that were mentioned during the call or other resources worth sharing to Michael and they will be shared via the meeting webpage.

NUPGE will circulate the notice for our next call.



NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia (HSABC)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU)
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU)
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers (CUBGW)
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees (NBU)
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU)
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees (PEI UPSE)
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE)

The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of Public Services International.

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