



national
union

**Correctional Officer
and Youth Facility Worker
Representatives
Conference Call**

June 29, 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 Officer and Youth Facility Worker Representatives
Conference Call
June 29, 2020
1:00 pm Eastern Time**

PARTICIPANTS

SGEU/NUPGE

Barry Nowoselsky
Glen Billingsley
Angelique Hortness

MGEU/NUPGE

Charlotte McWilliams

OPSEU/NUPGE

Ryan Graham
Joscelyn Ross
Chad Oldfield
Mike Fallon
Sandra Harper

NSGEU/NUPE

Rick Wiseman

NAPE/NUPGE

Steven Roach

NUPGE

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 meeting [webpage](#).

2. Updates from Components

What follows is a summary of the general updates from Components:

NAPE/NUPGE

Youth:

- As of today, office and clerical staff are back in facilities
- There have been no cases in facility. The youth detention facility in St. John's was used for quarantine before bringing youth to the facility in Whitburn.

NSGEU/NUPGE

- Province is reopening
- Of 4 adult facilities, issues in just 1 due to local management. Early in the pandemic, the employer was not backfilling positions. Now, the unfilled spots are becoming an issue when there are sick calls, etc. NSGEU has been working on this for a long time.
- Otherwise, working conditions are good. The employer and government continue to work with the union. There seems to be a shift in management style that is positive—e.g., new management at Burnside is officer-first in approach

OPSEU/NUPGE

Adult:

- Communication with management has been going well
- Reopening is beginning at institutions
- As of today, public visits for inmates have reopened. Employer-directed framework outlines what it looks like, with institutions determining local implementation. OPSEU is waiting to review the plans

- Universally masking employees within all institutions
- No courts in person, but this will change July 6 with 50 in the first day
- All corrections workers had the ability to be tested on site. This was coordinated by the employer with the health ministry. The ministry backed out on half of the institutions, but staff still have the option to go to regional testing centres.

Youth:

In adult, the employer instituted an intake process for new admits, including 14-day isolation and a plan for PPE for staff in those areas. The Ministry of Health issued guidance for all congregate settings. The isolation varied between ministry or service, but corrections adult had a fairly rigorous, yet standardized process. The ministry that operates youth facilities has yet to work with the elected representatives to institute an isolation intake process. As a result of a complaint made to the provincial labour ministry, an order was issued to the employer to do so. A week later, an inspector comes back to find the employer in compliance with the original order even though there was no new program or PPE. OPSEU has retained legal counsel and is in the midst of appealing that decision to the labour relations board. OPSEU will be seeking an interim order to have the board institute the order immediately until the appeal can be heard. Today, word is the employer has agreed to temperature checks for 14 days for new intakes, but this is insufficient.

SGEU/NUPGE

Youth:

- No cases among youth or staff
- Strict cleaning protocols with weekly fogging. 14-day isolation when youth arrive
- Introducing a phased reopening. On June 25, staff gym opened with protocols. On June 29, professional visits begin in rooms with a plexiglass barrier between the youth and the professional. The professional will be masked and rooms cleaned between appointments. On July 6, offenders can attend non-urgent health services in community. Shared classrooms among units will open, with cleaning protocols. Prince Albert is in the final testing stages for videoconferencing with family members, with the hope that all facilities will have this option.

Adult:

- No additional cases among inmates and no cases among staff.
- Staff are masked when dealing with new or symptomatic inmates

- Starting this week:
 - Non-contact professional visits begin off-unit, following an assessment
 - Recreational equipment back in the yard, except weights
 - Reintegration units can begin transitioning back into the community
 - Staff working at home will be returning to workplace, following new guidelines and protocols under the Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Government announced a \$120 million expansion of the Saskatoon Correctional Centre: 216 cells, 465 inmates, and a requirement of an additional 130 full-time staff for the 2 new units

MGEU/NUPGE

- No cases in corrections
- New admissions had been going through the Remand Centre. Government announced facilities won't be taking anyone until they've been taken before the court
- Still screening staff and contractors with question and temperature checks
- New transfers or admissions still isolated for 14 days
- No return of visitors yet
- Meals are now served individually
- Recent change: no longer mandating 14-day isolation for staff. Before, if someone tested negative, they had to isolate, but now they just talk to work about returning

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.

The next meeting is being planned for September.



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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