



report

**Privatization
Researchers'
Videoconference**

September 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

Participants

BCGEU/NUPGE

Brent Camilleri
Simon Kelly

Rob Duffy
Erin Stalnaker

HSABC/NUPGE

Katie Riecken

HSAA/NUPGE

Gaetan Drapeau

Amanda Freistadt

SGEU/NUPGE

Taylor Bendig

MGEU/NUPGE

John Baert

Andy Regier

OPSEU/NUPGE

Christian Down
Andy Pedersen

David Lundy
Luisa Quarta

PEI UPSE/NUPGE

Mark Barrett

NSGEU/NUPGE

David MacKenzie

Lucas Wide

NUPGE

Andrew McNeill, National Representative
Theresa Clemen, Administrative Representative

1. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Cambie Case Decision

The Cambie case was started over a decade ago by Dr. Brian Day, who owns the Cambie Surgery Centre. It is an attempt to challenge British Columbia's *Medicare Protection Act*. What Brian Day tried to argue was that the right to timely medical care was covered by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and that right should justify allowing 2-tier health care.

Both the BCGEU and HSABC intervened in the case through their support for the BC Health Coalition. Their position was that if doctors were permitted to operate privately as well as in the public system, then care would be based on ability to pay, not need.

On September 10, 2020, Justice Steeves of the Supreme Court of British Columbia delivered his judgement. Brian Day lost, and the judge was emphatic in rejecting the arguments put forward by those challenging the *Medicare Protection Act*. It is almost inevitable that Brian Day and his backers will appeal the decision, so the case is unlikely to be resolved for some time.

3. Alberta Bill 30

While the full impact of Bill 30 won't be known until the regulations are released, the bill is likely to result in more privatization of health care services in Alberta. The bill comes at the same time that the Alberta government has announced it will double the number of surgical procedures performed in for-profit facilities.

At the same time Bill 30 was introduced, the United Conservative Party (UCP) government of Alberta has been coming up with creative names for private surgical facilities. The UCP government is also trying to argue that the facilities permitted under Bill 30 are just an extension of doctors owning their own clinics, when in fact the legislation will permit private for-profit hospitals. In both cases, the goal is to reduce public concern about the impact of the bill.

Another goal of Bill 30 is to reduce physician compensation.

Because of the potential for conflict with the *Canada Health Act*, NUPGE President Larry Brown [wrote](#) to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Hajdu, urging the federal government to monitor the situation. A [report](#) prepared by Andrew Longhurst of HSABC provides more information about Bill 30.

4. Liquor/Cannabis Privatization

In Saskatchewan, Ontario, and British Columbia the biggest threat is privatization of liquor warehousing and distribution.

In Saskatchewan, legislation has been passed that would allow the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) to enter into agreements with any party for warehousing and distribution; however, it has still not received Royal Assent. It's being pitched as a way to get private players into the specialty market, but there is nothing stopping companies from providing warehousing for all alcoholic beverages.

The public warehouse in Saskatchewan has enough capacity to handle additional products. Privatizing warehousing and distribution also contradict the claim made by the provincial government at the time stores were privatized, which is that government revenues wouldn't be affected as long as the wholesale side was public.

In Ontario, workers are noticing shipments arriving in unfamiliar trucks, and it looks like a fourth private warehouse has been added. This is in addition to 3 existing private warehouses that were relatively small and mainly handled beer kegs. OPSEU has been trying to get information (through freedom of information requests) on the volumes being handled by private warehouses.

The issue in British Columbia is warehousing and distribution of non-stock wholesale products. Changes to the system are being considered, and one of the options is privatizing the handling of non-stock whole products. There is also the possibility that, while a public warehouse will be used, the software side will be contracted out.

With respect to liquor retailing, convenience store associations are pushing for more privatization in both Ontario and Prince Edward Island. In Saskatchewan, half of the public stores have been sold off, but the remaining public stores are being left alone for now because they are the ones with the highest profits.

With the election of a majority Progressive Conservative government in New Brunswick, there is a danger that cannabis retailing will be privatized. The original justification for privatization was that the public stores were losing money, but they are now turning a profit (on October 1, it was reported that [Cannabis NB had made a \\$3.3 million profit in the second quarter of 2020](#)).

Plans for public retailing of cannabis in Ontario were abandoned after the Progressive Conservatives were elected in 2018. The plan now is for between 600 and 700 cannabis stores. The private warehouse for cannabis in Ontario wasn't big enough, so it was announced recently that it will be closed and replaced by a larger private warehouse.

In Nova Scotia, cannabis stores are public, and the number of locations is being increased. This does not include private stores in First Nations communities.

5. Social Finance Fund

The federal government has announced that an \$805 million Social Finance Fund will be set up. What is not clear is whether it will be used to help subsidize schemes like social impact bonds, which have changed social finance from being a way to strengthen communities, to being a way to privatize public services. Recent media reports suggest that the fund will be used to subsidize privatization schemes like social impact bonds, and NUPGE has twice [written](#) to the minister overseeing the fund seeking clarification. To date, the replies have been worded in such a way that implies the fund could be used for social impact bonds.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan have both used social impact bonds. While Saskatchewan was the first provincial government to use social impact bonds, there have been no announcements recently. In Manitoba, one social impact bond project has been set up and another is being discussed. While the Manitoba government has made a lot of noise about social impact bonds, they take a long time to set up.

6. COVID-19 Testing and Tracing

Several provinces are allowing pharmacies to do COVID-19 testing, or are planning to do so. There have also been reports of a for-profit health care provider charging people \$400 for a test at home.

In Manitoba, the provincial government has issued a contract to Dynacare for COVID testing. There is a fear that the contract will be a foot in the door for further privatization of diagnostic testing. Dynacare is using the contract to set up a facility in Winnipeg, and it's expected that Dynacare will use its new facility to go after further contracts. Public health is doing contact tracing, but an RFP for this work was issued recently.

In Alberta, even though the public lab has been doing a good job, the Kenney government put out an expression of interest in August for private companies to provide COVID testing.

7. Medavie

A small group of nurse practitioners working for Medavie are trying to get a financial statement for Medavie. As a private company (as opposed to one that is publicly traded), Medavie is not legally required to make its financial information public (and doesn't). However, David Mackenzie and Andrew McNeill both said they could provide some information.

8. Component Reports

Written reports from Components are appended to this report. In the case of Components that submitted written reports, the only information below is points that weren't mentioned in the written reports.

In Nova Scotia, the Premier is retiring and nominations for candidates to replace him as Liberal Party leader close on October 9. Labi Kousoulis, the only candidate who has declared so far, is seen as being even more right wing than Stephen McNeil.

The NSGEU had a contract for ads in public venues, and because the contracts were based on the numbers of people seeing the ads, the ads will stay in place longer than originally planned. A lot of NSGEU collective agreements have clauses with penalties for contracting out, but employers are not keen on those clauses.

In Manitoba, the government's wage-freeze legislation was struck down by the Court of the Queen's Bench, but the government has announced it will appeal.

It appears that the Saskatchewan Party is delaying the announcement that the planned hospital in Prince Albert will be a P3 privatization scheme. until after the provincial election. The reason for delaying the announcement is that the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford P3 has been a disaster, and an announcement of another hospital being built using a P3 will not go over well during the election campaign.

SGEU has released an [app](#) that allows consumers to compare the prices of products in privatized stores with those in public stores. The prices in public stores are almost always lower. This has been very successful with thousands of monthly users and is being updated.

HSA is running an [I ♥ Public Health Care](#) campaign. The key message is that public health care saves lives. It is being done in conjunction with a member-to-member campaign. The campaign's lawn signs are very popular, with 1,000 orders a month from the public.

OPSEU

Doug Ford and the Progressive Conservatives are in power. The next provincial election is due in 2022.

A provincial budget is supposed to be released in mid-November. There was a 500-word cap on written pre-budget submissions, which was seen as a way of reducing public input. At the same time, an online survey was designed to produce the answers the government wants to hear.

The results of a Nanos poll done late spring/early summer was promising. There was strong support for investments in public services, and dealing with the debt was pretty low on people's priority list.

OPSEU is trying to get employers to do collective bargaining virtually. There is wage restraint legislation under Bill 124.

OPSEU is dealing with B195, which allows the government to keep the emergency orders that were meant to respond to the pandemic in place without a declared state of emergency. The orders can be extended for 30 days at a time, for up to a year. Some of these orders waive the collective agreement provisions around time off, redeployment, appointment scheduling, and don't allow for the grievance process.

In addition to services already mentioned, services at risk of privatization include home and community care and community colleges. For home and community care, having "health teams" replace LHINs for home and community care co-ordination is expected to lead to more contracting out and a possible reintroduction of competitive bidding for home and community care. With colleges, the concern is a proposed micro-credential strategy, potentially developed by private entities.

While some of the long-term care facilities that handled COVID-19 outbreaks particularly badly were put under the management of hospitals, they have since been returned to their owners.

In Toronto, the TTC is partnering with private firms to offer micro-transit on routes where ridership has fallen significantly during the pandemic.

OPSEU is running a campaign around the COVID-19 response and a [Keep it Public](#) web-based campaign to stop privatization of the LCBO.

FOLLOW-UPS

ISSUE	NUPGE Responsibility	Component Responsibility	Task Completed
Share Cambie Decision –Key Paragraphs and Findings from Justice Steeve's Decision.	✓		✓

**Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff
and Campaigners Videoconference
September 29, 2020**



Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: NSGEU

Number of members: 31,000

1. Government/political climate:

After seven years as Premier, Stephen McNeil announced his plan to step down as Premier as soon as a new leader/Premier is chosen. The convention takes place in Feb 2021 and deadline to enter the contest is October 9, 2020. While some people are kicking the tires, there are no officially declared candidates.

Many backbenchers are pressing for a progressive shift in leadership and would like to see a mending of the relationship with Labour.

2. Collective bargaining update:

From May 2019 to present:

Antigonish & Area Homemaker Service, Local 36

Number of members: 34

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Donnie MacNeil

Status of Negotiations: After two days at the bargaining table, a tentative agreement was

reached. A ratification meeting was held on February 19, 2020. The membership voted 95 percent in favour of the tentative agreement.

Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Local 1783

Number of Members: 4

Contract Expiry Date: First Contract Staff Negotiator: John Cook

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on August 25, 2020 and bargaining ensued on August 25, 26, and 27, 2020. Further talks were held on September 23, 24, and 25, 2020.

Braeside Nursing Home, Local 28

Number of Members: 32

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator:

Gina Boyd

Status of Negotiations: A Bargaining Committee meeting was held on June 6, 2019. The committee met again on October 1, 2019. Bargaining preparation was held on February 20, 2020. The Bargaining Committee exchanged proposals on February 26, 2020 and further bargained on February 27, 2020. An additional date was held on March 11, 2020, and a tentative agreement was reached. Information vote sessions were held on March 16, 2020, and the tentative agreement was been ratified by 100 per cent of those who voted.

Canadian Association for Community Living, Local 61

Number of Members: 24

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2015 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: Proposal exchange and bargaining dates will be held on October 19, 20, 21, and 22, 2020.

Canadian Blood Services, Local 43

Number of members: 35

Contract Expiry Date: December 31, 2020 Staff Negotiator:

Shawn Fuller/Brandon Rose

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on February 12 and 13, 2019. Further bargaining dates were scheduled for April 2 and 3, 2019. An impasse was reached after four days of bargaining. The Union filed for conciliation. A strike vote was conducted with 90% of the bargaining unit voting in favour of strike action. Conciliation took place on September 17 and 18 when a tentative agreement was reached. An information and ratification session was held September 29, 2019, where the members ratified the tentative agreement.

Cape Breton County Homemakers, Local 84

Number of members: 114

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Donnie MacNeil

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on May 21, 2019. Further dates for bargaining took place on August 13, September 12, 2019 and again on November 7 and 8, 2019. A tentative agreement was reached, and a ratification meeting and vote was held on November 23, 2019. The members voted 96% in favour of the tentative agreement.

Chisholm Services for Children, Local 62

Number of members: 14

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2015 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: Proposal were exchanged on September 18 and 20, 2020. Further talks are scheduled on October 5 and 6, 2020.

City Homemakers Society, Local 76

Number of members: 87

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Donnie MacNeil

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on May 7th. Further bargaining dates were held on July 9 and 10, 2019. Bargaining resumed on September 20, 2019. A ratification meeting and a vote was held on November 24, 2019, with members voting 100 percent in favour of the tentative agreement.

Colchester Residential Services Society, Local 64

Number of Members: 100

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: There was a proposal from the employer to open and extend the contract. The proposal is that each permanent employee shall contribute to the defined contribution plan. The matched contribution rate shall increase to 6% effective November 1, 2021 and 7% effective October 31, 2023.

Wage increases: November 1, 2021 – 1.5%; November 1, 2022 – 1.5% Memorandum of

Understanding:

Year 7 and 8 Increases - Any general economic wage increase or shift differential or weekend premium increase that applies to a NSGEU Disability Support Program Residential Sector Collective Agreement in the province of Nova Scotia in excess of a 1.5% general economic wage increase in year 7 and/or year 8 will be applied to this Agreement. Information sessions and a vote were conducted on February 13 and 14, 2020. The reopener proposal was ratified by 99 percent of members who voted.

Community Health Services, Local 63B

Number of Members: 47

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2015 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on August 27, 2019, to finalize proposals, and bargaining had been scheduled for March 4 and 5, 2020, but was cancelled by the Employer. Negotiations will get underway once the collective agreement for Local 63A (Metro Community Living) is finalized.

Kendall Lane Housing Society, Local 111A Victoria Park Guest House Inc, Local 111B

Number of Members: 18

Contract Expiry Date: First Contract Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: Bargaining Prep meetings were held on March 25, 2019, and negotiations with the Employer were held on June 12, 13, 18, 19, 24 and 25, 2019. We have applied for conciliation as the first stage of the First Contract Arbitration process, and have met with the Employer with the assistance of a Conciliation Officer on January 9 and 10, 2020. A further meeting was held on February 10, 2020. The NSGEU filed for first contract arbitration in August, 2020. Further conciliation is scheduled for September 25 and 28, 2020.

Louisdale Community Homes Association, Local 105

Number of members: 16

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Donnie MacNeil

Status of Negotiations: After just two days of bargaining on November 25 and 26, 2019, a tentative agreement was reached with the employer. A ratification meeting and vote was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and members voted to ratify the tentative agreement.

Metro Community Living, Local 63A

Number of Members: 81

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2015 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on August 6, 2019 to finalize proposals. The Bargaining Committee met on February 4, 2020. Proposals were exchanged on March 3, 2020. Further negotiations were scheduled for April 6, 7, and 8, 2020, but were postponed due to the pandemic. We are currently in the process of possibly setting up on-line negotiations. Further talks were held on September 1 and 2, 2020. Major outstanding issues include vacation scheduling and the inclusion of casuals in the bargaining unit. The next negotiation dates are scheduled for November 4, 5, and 6, 2020.

Mountain Lea Lodge, Local 86

Number of Members: 122

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Tony Bremner

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on June 4, 2019 and on October 9, 2019. Further bargaining with the Employer took place on January 22, 23, and 24, 2020. A tentative agreement was reached late in the afternoon of January 24th. The ratification vote was held on February 12, 2020, and the tentative agreement was ratified by 90% of the members who voted.

Northside Home Support, Local 83

Number of Members: 66

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Donnie MacNeil

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on July 11, 2019. Further bargaining dates were held on November 25 and 26, 2019, and a tentative agreement was reached and ratified on December 2, 2019.

Northwood Homecare (Office Employees and Schedulers), Local 38

Number of Members: 22

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Rick Wiseman

Status of Negotiations: A Bargaining prep meeting was held on October 3, 2018. Proposals were exchanged on May 28, 2019. Additional dates for bargaining were held on July 25, September 23 and 24, 2019. A strike vote was taken with 100% turnout of the bargaining unit and a 100% strike mandate. Conciliation took place on December 10th, 2019 and a tentative agreement was reached. An information and ratification vote session took place on December 19, 2019. The local voted 95% in favor of accepting the tentative agreement.

NSAC/Dalhousie University, Locals 92 & 99

Number of Members: 35

Contract Expiry Date: June 30, 2020 Staff Negotiator: Darryl Warren

Status of Negotiations: A tentative agreement was reached, and information sessions were conducted on November 29, 2019. Due to weather, the information session scheduled for December 3, 2019, was cancelled. An electronic ratification vote is scheduled for the coming week. The local voted 76% in favour of the tentative agreement.

Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation, Local 470

Number of Members: 871

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Nicole McKim

Status of Negotiations: Meetings were held on Nov. 7th Proposal were exchanged on January 16, 2019. The Bargaining Committee met with the employer on February 25, 26 and 27, 2019. Further dates were scheduled for March 25, 26, and 27, 2019. Following seven days of negotiations, the bargaining committee reached an impasse with the employer and filed for conciliation. Conciliation was scheduled for June 10, 17, and 26, 2019. A tentative agreement

was reached on July 31, 2019 and ratified on August 16, 2019.

Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation, Local 470E

Number of Members: 22

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Nicole McKim

Status of Negotiations: Bargaining prep was held on November 13, 2018. Proposal were exchanged on January 17, 2019. Further dates were held on February 11 and 12, 2019. Your bargaining committee met again with your employer on May 2, June 6, and again on July 10, when a tentative agreement was reached. The Agreement was ratified on July 18, 2019.

Orchard Court, Local 130

Number of Members: 47

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2020 Staff Negotiator: Corry MacKinnon

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on March 28, May 6, and September 24, 2019. Further bargaining took place on October 10 and 11, 2019. Conciliation took place on January 7, 2020, and a tentative agreement was reached. Two information and ratification vote sessions took place on February 3, 2020 and membership voted 100% in favour of ratification.

Parkland at the Lakes, Local 87

Number of Members: 67

Contract Expiry Date: August 31, 2020 Staff Negotiator: Trish MacDonald

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on November 21, and negotiations continued on November 22. Agreement was achieved on several non-monetary items. January 22, 2019, was set aside for further negotiations with the Employer, as well as March 19, 2019. A further date was scheduled for April 18, 2019. Negotiations continued on July 10 and 11, 2019. A tentative agreement was reached, but the members rejected the tentative agreement. The Bargaining Committee is planning next steps. The Union applied for conciliation on October 18, 2019.

Conciliation took place on February 11th. The Bargaining Committee's attempts to negotiate a fair collective agreement with the employer reached an impasse. A strike vote was conducted, and members voted in favour of a strike. A tentative agreement was reached on March 11, 2020, with the assistance of a Conciliation Officer. The tentative agreement was ratified on March 12, 2020.

Regional Residential Services Society, Local 66

Number of Members: 359

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: Negotiations took place September 9, 10, 11 and 23, 2019. After the four days of negotiations, a tentative agreement was reached with the employer. An

information and ratification session was scheduled for October 23, 2019 and the tentative agreement was ratified by the membership.

Riverview Enhanced Living Society, Local 112

Number of Members: 17

Contract Expiry Date: March 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Tony Bremner

Status of Negotiations: Bargaining took place on October 23, 2018. The bargaining committee met on October 24 and November 19, 2018. Further prep dates were held on August 12 and September 17, 2019. Negotiations with the Employer were held on June 17, and again on September 18, December 3 and 4, 2019. A tentative agreement was reached on December 4, 2019. Information/vote sessions took place on January 16 and 17, 2020. The contract was ratified, with 100% of the members who voted, voting in favour of the agreement.

Shannex, Blomidon Court, Local 56

Number of Members: 59

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2020 Staff Negotiator: Corry MacKinnon

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on March 12, 2019, to begin working on the proposals that the committee will take to the bargaining table. The committee reviewed the analysis of the surveys completed by members in 2017. Negotiations took place on August 27 and September 18, when an impasse was reached. The Union filed for conciliation on September 19, 2019. Conciliation took place on December 3, 2019. A tentative agreement was reached.

Information sessions took place on December 16, 2019, and the membership voted 100% in favour of the Collective Agreement.

St. Francis Xavier University, Local 88

Number of Members: 117

Contract Expiry Date: June 30, 2021 Staff Negotiator:

Darryl Warren

Status of Negotiations: Proposals were exchanged on December 12, 2018. Bargaining took place on January 24 and 25, February 6, 7 and 21, April 8, 9, and 16, 2019. A tentative agreement was reached and ratified on July 29th and was signed on October 2nd.

Universite Sainte-Anne, Local 45

Number of Members: 50

Contract Expiry Date: June 30, 2021 Staff Negotiator:

Dustin Rioux

Status of Negotiations: The Bargaining Committee met on September 18, 2019 to review the

results of the bargaining survey and to prioritize the concerns for the upcoming negotiations. Bargaining with the Employer took place on November 25, and 26, 2019. The Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement. An information session was held on December 4 and an electronic vote was conducted. The local voted 77% in favour of ratifying the tentative agreement.

VON Canada (Client Services Associates), Local 29

Number of members: 175

Contract expiry date: March 31, 2021 Staff Negotiator: Rick Wiseman

Status of Negotiations: Bargaining proposals were exchanged on March 4, 2019, and bargaining continued on March 11 and 12, 2019. Additional bargaining was held on October 3rd, 2019. The union filed for conciliation on October 10, 2019. Conciliation took place on January 16, 2020, when a tentative agreement was reached. Information and Ratification vote sessions were held and all members who voted, voted in support of ratification.

Yarmouth Assoc. for Community Residential Options, Local 59 A&B

Number of Members: 194

Contract Expiry Date: October 31, 2023 Staff Negotiator: Tracey Best

Status of Negotiations: There was a proposal from the employer to open and extend the contract. The proposal was that each permanent employee shall contribute to the Group Registered Retirement Plan (RRSP). The matched contribution rate shall increase to 6% effective November 1, 2021 and 7% effective October 31, 2023.

Wage increases: November 1, 2021 – 1.5%; November 1, 2022 –

1.5% Memorandum of Understanding:

Year 7 and 8 Increases - Any general economic wage increase or shift differential or weekend premium increase that applies to a NSGEU Disability Support Program Residential Sector Collective Agreement in the province of Nova Scotia in excess of a 1.5% general economic wage increase in year 7 and/or year 8 will be applied to this Agreement.

A telephone town hall was held on January 27th to inform the members and an electronic ratification vote was conducted from January 29 - February 4, 2020. The Reopener proposal was ratified by 96%.

Expiry of the Collective Agreements/Preparations for Bargaining

The collective agreements for the Support, Nursing, Healthcare, and Administrative Professional bargaining units at the NSHA and the IWK expire on October 31, 2020. The NSGEU served Notice to Bargain for the Healthcare Bargaining Unit in early September. The other Unions in the Council of Unions served notice for the bargaining units where they are the lead negotiators – Unifor (Support), CUPE (Administrative Professionals), NSNU (Nursing).

NSGEU Bargaining Committees will convene on October 13, 2020 at the NSGEU offices to discuss planning and strategy for bargaining. The Committees will work on the bargaining input surveys, to be sent to members towards the end of October.

On June 30, 2020, the Councils of Unions served notice to the IWK and the NSHA to begin negotiations on Essential Services. Preparations are underway to investigate staffing functions and levels.

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:

Policy Grievance – Avoidance of Creation of Positions – Department of Justice (Sheriff Services) In September, 2019, the Union and the employer reached a settlement on multiple policy and individual grievances concerning the avoidance of establishing positions. The employer agreed to establish 28.2 positions, convert current Part-Time and Relief Deputy Sheriffs to regular positions, and to increase the designations of some Deputy Sheriffs. This settlement is a major step forward in stabilizing the unionized workforce within sheriff services.

Policy Grievance on Morneau Shepell/Short Term Illness Administration

Adjudicator Lorraine Lafferty determined, in a decision dated January 31, 2020, that the Civil Service employer cannot unilaterally deduct pay from members who have filed for Short Term Illness (STI) benefits and who are found to be ineligible for those benefits. This was the first of several issues to be determined by Adjudicator Lafferty, which arose from the NSGEU's 2017 grievance. Subsequent days of mediated arbitration led to no resolution of outstanding issues. The Union and the employer will present arguments to Adjudicator Lafferty on December 2, 3, and 4, 2020.

NSGEU v. Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Environment, Grievance of Corey Bowen

Corey Bowen, a Fisheries Technician, applied as an internal candidate for a Conservation Officer position, a job he had done previously. He was screened out of the internal competition for not having seven years of enforcement experience. The position was awarded to an external, non- Union applicant from New Brunswick. Adjudicator Nelson Blackburn determined that the Employer violated the collective agreement by screening internal and external candidates at the same time. This decision is important also because it speaks to assessing the Employer's obligations in assessing members' qualifications as equivalent to the posted requirements.

Policy Grievance – Province of NS/Lands and Forestry (Reassignment of Conservations Officers to the NB Border)

Conservation Officers volunteered to guard the border between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in response to a request by the employer. The Union and the members believed that entry into Nova Scotia would be restricted, and only essential workers would be admitted. However, Conservation Officers were limited to stopping cars and handing out leaflets, without appropriate PPE. The Union grieved that the employer had violated the Reassignment And OHS Articles of the Collective Agreement. The grievance has been forwarded to adjudication.

Nova Scotia Hospital – Developmental Workers

Over twenty grievances are filed on behalf of the Developmental Workers, whose positions were eliminated due to restructuring of services at Emerald Hall. The NSGEU and the Employer

remain miles apart on how to interpret the job security provisions of the collective agreement, a state of affairs that does not bode well for future reorganizations. The NSGEU and the NSHA have agreed to mediated-arbitration of the grievances with Arbitrator Eric Slone appointed to deal with all issues.

Locals 101, 104, 193, 195 Policy Grievance – Statutory Holidays

Arbitrator Bruce Outhouse decided that for nurses who have worked a statutory holiday and who seek time off in lieu of pay, and who do not work a four on/five off rotation, statutory holidays can now be built into the work schedule. For short-notice requests for statutory holiday time, the employer must make a reasonable effort to attempt to fill the shift with part time, casual, or Nursing Resource Team (NRT) staff. Where there is an over-complement of nurses on a shift, nurses should be able to ask for stat holiday time off on request, without waiting until 5:00 am or 5:00 pm before the beginning of a shift.

LPN Reclassification

The NSGEU achieved a major victory in June when agreement was reached on the reclassification of the LPN classification. The decision of Arbitrator Lorraine Lafferty affects almost 400 LPNs who work or worked at the former Capital District Health Authority (CDHA) since 2014. Employers have thus far not applied the reclassification to LPNs who work at the IWK, or Public Health, Addictions and Continuing Care, or long term care. The NSGEU, along with CUPE, NSNU, and Unifor, have grieved this issue against every employer where LPNs work outside the former CDHA. https://nsgeu.ca/home_page/wage-increase-for-lpns/21957/

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

Always concerned about Nova Scotia Liquor Commission and Cannabis sales

P3 Construction and Maintenance of the New Power Plant

The Union learned through the media that the government intends to construct a new power plant, as part of the Halifax Infirmary build, which will be built, owned, and maintained by the company that wins the construction tender. A grievance has been filed on the failure to consult with the Union on the contracting out of bargaining unit work.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

No

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes? YES

b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)? NO

7. COVID-19:

a) Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses? **NO**

b) Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing? **NO**

8. Major campaigns and communications:

Major branding campaign.

Mini Campaigns over last 6 months featuring NSGEU essential workers.

Sign campaign thanking front line workers went through 3500 signs in 2 weeks.

9. Any other major activities to report:

**Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff
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September 29, 2020**



Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: PEI UPSE

Number of members:

1. Government/political climate:

The Conservatives currently have a minority government in Prince Edward Island. This could change since a Liberal MLA has stepped down triggering an upcoming byelection. If the Conservatives win the seat they will be able to form a majority government.

2. Collective bargaining update:

UPSE is currently negotiating or in preparation to begin negotiating a total of nine contracts. They are:

Health PEI

Garden Home

City of Charlottetown

Community Connections

Grain Elevators

Strait Crossing Ltd.

Tremploy

Atlantic Tourism and Hospitality Institute

Holland College Faculty

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:

Nothing to report at the moment.

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

Home care, Liquor sales and mental health services. The government is possibly looking at NGOs to provide some mental health services.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

In the near future a private Drs clinic will be brought under the public system.

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes?

Yes

b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?

No

7. COVID-19:

a) Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses?

Yes. Large chain grocery stores were wishing to sell liquor during the pandemic. The Atlantic Convenience Stores Association has also been applying pressure to government to open up beer and wine sales in convenience stores across Prince Edward Island.

Provincially run liquor stores were temporarily closed in March before reopening with enhanced safety protocols put in place which were initiated by UPSE.

Government amended legislation to allow agency stores to deliver alcohol and to allow restaurants to sell liquor with their take-out meals. This came into force in March 2020.

b) Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing?

Not yet.

8. Major campaigns and communications:

UPSE is planning an upcoming Member Engagement campaign.

9. Any other major activities to report:

President Jackson was appointed to the Premier's Council which has a mandate to address the economic future of PEI post-COVID-19. The Premier's Council has been meeting since May. PEI UPSE will submit a position paper on many of the key issues related to post-COVID-19 economic restructuring. One of the key statements in the paper will be to ensure that new initiatives are public sector in nature and that public sector staff be hired to carry them out.

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Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: NBU

Number of members: 9,282

1. Government/political climate:

Newly elected Progressive Conservative government. Have preached austerity and tax breaks for wealthy and corporations

2. Collective bargaining update:

Several groups currently at the table, however, recent election and lack of mandate given to Treasury Board by newly elected government has resulted in no new talks

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

Cannabis NB

Potential for portions of healthcare

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

No, every party with exception of PC called for management of Ambulance NB, ExtraMural Program and Tele-Care to come back under government. With PC win this did not happen.

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes?

Yes in five different homes

b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?

Some have contracted out services to Fundy Linen

7. COVID-19:

a) Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses?

No it has not

b) Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing?

No it is being done through Public Health

8. Major campaigns and communications:

Our latest campaign was a detailed scorecard and subsequent analysis of four parties election platforms focusing on key issues relating to labour including collective bargaining, pay equity, healthcare and minimum wage.

9. Any other major activities to report:

At this point, we are preparing for our 50th anniversary convention. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions on large gathering, this three-day event has been scaled down considerably and will be done virtually. Preparing materials and figuring out best practices for delivering it are the main focus at the moment.



Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: MGEU

Number of members:

- 32,000

1. Government/political climate:

- Manitoba's Progressive Conservative (PC) Party is one year into their four year mandate and Brian Pallister is the Premier. The main focus of the Pallister Government has been across the board cuts and privatization. Even in the COVID era, where many governments across Canada have chosen to spend to stimulate the economy, the PC's have made program announcements that are ill-conceived and have not amounted to much by way of support or spending. Where they have been forced to expand services, they have turned to the private sector (Dynacare for testing, Morneau-Shapell for counseling, 24-7 InTouch for business support, etc).

There is virtually no government department/funded entity that is not being reviewed or transformed in some major way. Education reform was expected this spring, but was delayed because of the pandemic, so is expected in the spring of 2021. Health restructuring continues and has now entered a third phase of consolidation in rural Manitoba. Justice, Infrastructure, Families, Housing, and the non-profit sector are also being reviewed and transformed.

A recent Angus Reid poll showed that Premier Pallister has the third lowest approval rating amongst his Provincial counterparts when many Premiers saw a bump in popularity during the pandemic. There is widespread speculation that Pallister will not complete his term and likely retire in within the next two years.

2. Collective bargaining update:

- Bargaining is continuing for some smaller groups, but many tables have been significantly delayed by Bill 28 (wage freeze legislation), or Bill 29 (health restructuring). Mandates at nearly all tables is the Bill 28 mandate of a four year agreement with general wage increases of 0%, 0%, 0.75%, 1%.

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:

- One small local, MYS Alternative Parent Homes, exercised their right to interest arbitration and were able to break the Bill 28 mandate.

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

- Infrastructure – snow clearing, highway maintenance,
- Health – diagnostic testing, contact tracing, day surgery
- Housing – hundreds of housing units have been sold, hundreds more have had their management transferred to non-for-profit agencies
- IT services – is being contracted out to private IT firms incrementally with one-off smaller contracts.
- Social Impact Bonds – one project is underway, one is in the works.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

- No, however, the government studied using P3's for school builds and found that using a traditional procurement approach saved them enough money to build another school.

“The province had initially explored the feasibility and benefits of building four new schools using a public private partnership (P3) model and retained KPMG to prepare a P3 Business Case evaluation and report. After a careful review, the province decided instead to enhance its conventional Public Schools Finance Board approach to apply many of the lessons learned through analysis of P3 principles, innovations and methodologies.”

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=44558&posted=2018-08-16>

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes?

- Yes

b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?

- Not at this time.

7. COVID-19:

a) Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses?

- Early on in the pandemic the government contracted with a call centre (24/7 InTouch) to provide support to businesses. This move was criticized because the call centre was essentially providing businesses with support in accessing federal business support while the Province's programs failed to provide adequate financial resources to struggling businesses.
- Morneau-Shapell was contracted to provide tele-counseling services for Manitobans struggling with stress and anxiety during the pandemic.
- The government has also partnered with the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to administer grants to childcare providers, rather than use the public service. The terms of these agreements are unknown and uptake on the programs has been lackluster.

b) Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing?

- Yes, testing is being completed by the Provincial Lab (Cadham) and Dynacare. Dynacare has been brought in to complete all mobile testing and any expansion of capacity.
- Most contact tracing has been done by public health, however, the government has issued a tender for private sector proponents to bid on future contact tracing work.

8. Major campaigns and communications:

MGEU is in the early stages of launching a Mental Health Campaign including:

- Research and training on Mental Health at work
- Creation of website resources
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) partnership
- Presentations from CMHA to members and staff
- Online sharable content
- Video content

9. Any other major activities to report:



Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU)

Number of members: 20,000

- 1. Government/political climate:** The right-wing Saskatchewan Party has been in government since 2007, and its tenure has been marked by cutbacks and privatization. A provincial election is set for October 26; polling suggests the Sask Party is essentially guaranteed to retain its majority. Saskatchewan's economy has been damaged by the pandemic and the finance minister projects three years of deficits; she says government spending and public-sector wage increases will be limited, but claims there will be no major cuts or layoffs.
- 2. Collective bargaining update:** Most major agreements are currently settled. SGEU's bargaining committee at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency recently declared an impasse; the sticking points are two union proposals to reallocate money without increasing spending.
- 3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:** None to report. The last year has been heavily focused on bargaining.

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

Privatization is not a major issue in the upcoming election; the Sask Party has (so far) not included any hints or plans of privatization in its election messaging. However, there are still several areas of concern:

- Liquor stores and liquor distribution remain at risk. A moratorium on public liquor store closures, negotiated in the previous CBA, has now expired. The province also passed (but has not yet put into force) legislation to allow private wholesalers into the province. It claims this is only to facilitate a small private market for specialty projects, but the legislation as written opens the door to widespread privatization of liquor distribution.
- P3s remain a concern – we anticipate that a planned rebuild of the Prince Albert hospital will be announced as a P3.
- The NDP accuses the Sask Party of intending to sell off Crown Corporations to pay down debt. The Sask Party denies this, but is known to have had secret meetings with potential buyers for the Crown telecom SaskTel.
- There are recruitment/retention issues for some health care positions, such as LPNs and combined X-ray/lab techs, in rural and northern areas. The province has been using workers supplied by private companies to fill those roles. The province is also using contractors to fill medical transcriptionist jobs.
- The scope of public home care services has been reduced, making room for private home care companies to increase their presence.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

Nothing to report.

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes?

Yes – we represent LTC staff in northern and northeast Saskatchewan.

- b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?**

Beginning in 2016, linen services for LTC facilities (and all other health facilities in Saskatchewan) were contracted out to Alberta-based K-Bro Linens. The contract saw K-Bro paid \$26 million last year. This has created issues for LTC staff, since K-Bro does not send the laundry back folded –workers have to grab handfuls from bags of towels, which is not ideal for infection control, and instructions are to leave them unfolded, making rooms look sloppy and staff look careless.

Staff in food services remain public, but there's an increased use of premade food from Sysco that the staff just reheat. This has lowered food quality, and reduced the need for the higher-skilled and -paid food services jobs.

7. COVID-19:

- a) Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses?**

Not so far.

- b) Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing?**

No, testing and tracing is so far conducted only by staff of the public health authority. An LOU was signed between the province and our five major health unions, allow public staff from around the province to be redeployed for testing and tracing work. That LOU will remain in effect until shortly after the provincial state of emergency ends.

- 8. Major campaigns and communications:** Preparing a campaign to make stable multi-year funding for community-based organizations into an election issue.

- 9. Any other major activities to report:** Not at present.

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Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: Alberta (Health Sciences Association of Alberta)

Number of members: 27,000

- 1. Government/political climate:** After winning the 2019 provincial election, the newly elected United Conservative Party (UCP) government moved quickly to implement sweeping reforms in the province, and based on the direction signaled in its election platform and the policies enacted in its first year of government, the UCP government is on a path to dramatically transform the health care system in the province.

Three documents are having a significant impact in Alberta at the moment.

The first document of importance is the MacKinnon Panel on Alberta's Finances report released in August 2019. The main conclusion of the report is that Alberta's spending would be \$10.4 billion less every year if Alberta matched the average spending of Canada's three largest provinces – Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. The Panel made 26 recommendations and a lot of those recommendations is for privatization of public services.

The second document of importance is the Alberta Health Services review conducted by Ernst & Young. The report was released on February 3, 2020. It contained 57 recommendations and again a lot of those recommendations is for privatization of public services.

The third document of importance is the provincial budget delivered on February 27, 2020 (on August 27, 2020, the Government of Alberta released their first quarter fiscal update for fiscal year 2020-21 and they are forecasting a deficit of \$24.2 billion mainly due to a severe decline in revenue).

2. Collective bargaining update: HSAA is set to exchange bargaining proposals with Alberta Health Services in October unless it is postponed again because of COVID. Here is a brief negotiations summary for other bargaining units at HSAA:

Tentative Agreements Reached:

- Mosaic – August 18, 2020 (Ratification Vote September 9 – 17)

Agreements Filed/Booked/ for Mediation:

- CBS Technical

Agreements Filed/Booked for Compulsory Arbitration:

- Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority

Notice to Bargain Served as of June 2020:

- APL – expires September 30, 2020

Notice to Bargain to be Served Between Sept – Dec 2020:

- WCB Millard – expires December 31, 2020

Active Wage Reopeners:

- Associated Ambulance tabled on October 15, 2019; next meeting is TBD– Tammy & Chris
- Prairie EMS tabled on November 19, 2019; next meeting is TBD - Tammy & Chris
- Carewest – Extension until Sept 30, 2020 – Shannon & Lorri

Completed Wage Reopeners:

- WCB – 0% - July 10, 2020

Upcoming Wage Reopeners:

- Bethany Care Society
- CASA – April 2021
- East Central 911 – Jan 2022

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions: None that we are aware of.

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

- Alberta Surgical Initiative, reduced wait times for medically necessary, publicly funded surgical procedures. Reviewing opportunities to expand capacity in chartered surgical facilities, which provided approximately 40,000 publicly funded surgeries in 2019. Alberta has set aggressive targets to move surgeries deemed safe and appropriate to CSFs over the course of the Alberta Surgical Initiative. Targets have been set that will see incremental increases up to the 2022-23 target of 30 per cent of scheduled surgeries performed in CSFs.
- Alberta Health Services intends to contract out home care services (use of private contracted agencies for the provision of home care services in Alberta). Contracted home care agencies (these agencies primarily provide personal care services, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, medication assistance, and meal assistance)
- Initiative to grow continuing care space by 5,746 spaces by privately operated continuing care operators. AHS runs 103 continuing care facilities, 126 are privately operated and 124 are non-profit facilities.
- Privatizing services and facilities currently run by Alberta Health Services. Sell Capital Care and Carewest (public long-term care facilities) to the private sector.
- Privatization of community lab services (approximately 1,400 HSAA members impacted)
- Plans to privatize government run homes for persons with developmental disabilities
- Alberta’s government is inviting industry to submit qualifications to deliver five new high schools through a public-private partnership (P3).
- Privatization of disability services. Approximately 200 guardians of disabled Albertans were given notice on June 10th that the UCP government is “exploring alternative service delivery”—code for privatization of Edmonton’s Rosecrest home for children, the Hardisty and Balwin respite centres, Edmonton group homes, and Calgary’s Scenic Bow home
- Contracting out hospital food service, housekeeping, laundry, security, laboratory testing.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

- During the Covid 19 Pandemic, a few long-term care facilities (not HSAA centers) were transferred from private providers to AHS management, and in at least one case AHS appointed another private entity to take over management.
- The lab privatization experiment of the 1990s in Alberta. In 1995, various private, for-profit corporations amalgamated to provide lab services in Edmonton. By 1996, the RAH lab was changed from full service to ‘stat’ or ‘rapid response’ when they contracted out the lab services to DKML (later renamed DynaLIFEdx). In 2005, the privatization experiment was deemed a failure

and all in-patient lab services in hospitals were brought back into the public sector, although DynaLIFEdx has continued providing testing outside of hospitals and urgent care centers.

In 1996, Premier Ralph Klein tried, and struggled, to get private, for-profit operators to take over lab services in Calgary. Due to lack of interest from the private sector, only three private corporations came forward, and they did not have enough capacity to take over the lab services from the public sector completely. The two corporations entered into a partnership with the Calgary Health Authority, which put up more than half of the funding and did much of the work. By 2006 the experiment was deemed a failure. The corporations pulled out, and all lab services returned fully to the public sector under Calgary Laboratory Services, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of AHS

6. Long-term care:

- a) **Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes? Yes**

- b) **If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long-term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?** Most long-term care workers in Alberta are represented by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) and they will definitely be impacted by contracting out of services since Alberta Health Services is considering privatizing, among other things, their in-house laundry and linen services.

7. COVID-19:

- a) **Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses? Yes**

- b) **Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing? Yes.** Most of the testing is conducted by our public sector but the Government of Alberta has issued a request for expression of interests (August 5, 2020) in order to increase COVID testing capacity.

8. Major campaigns and communications:

Health Matters campaign.

Campaign Plan Summary:

Campaign Goal:

Health care is identified as the number one issue on the minds of Albertans voting in the 2023 provincial election.

- Kenney and the UCP are identified as being bad for health care
- HSAA members are seen as trusted defenders of health care
- Need to maintain public health care as a core value for Albertans

Membership goals:

- HSAA members are empowered to talk to co-workers and the public about the importance of public health care
- HSAA members are well-informed about health care issues and are ready to refute fake news
- HSAA members are irritated with current government's attacks on public health care system and are motivated to act Ready to strike for quality public health care
- HSAA members identify with their union because they see value in being a member

We have a robust member to member outreach campaign and mobilizing effort.

Mobilizing efforts are more fluid than campaign efforts, but our basic outline is:

In phase one, we focus on educating the members about public health care and issues that matter to them (and continue these efforts throughout). In phase two – we focus on agitating members; and really taking the time to hear what issues matter to them. In phase three, we will activate members and move them to do something to stand up for public health care and their union. In phase four is a full pre-election plan where members vote for public health care.

(for more details please email amandaf@hsaa.ca. We'd love to talk it through!)

HSAA held a privatization summit in February 2020 for Local Unit leaders.

This summit was specially focused on creating opportunities for Local Unit Leaders who are likely to see direct privatization of their services. Guest speakers were Larry Brown, (NUPGE) Barb Byers (Retired CLC), Winston Gereluk and Tom Fuller (Anti-privatization activists with AUPE in the 90s), our Executive Officers, Mike Parker and Trudy Thomson, and Mike Boyle, Executive Director. We rounded out the day with an activity that had Local Unit Leaders plan out privatization fight back strategy to use in their workplaces and communities, led by Impact Institute.

9. Any other major activities to report:

The Alberta Legislative Assembly is set to resume activity on October 20, 2020 so we are bound to hear more about the privatization agenda from the Government of Alberta.

HSAA has our major Labour Relations Conferences (virtually) coming up where we are focusing on both our bargaining progress and our “I ❤️ **Public Health Care**” Campaign

Bill 32: the UCP government has passed a law which requires union members to opt-in to the portion of their dues that is spent on political action, charitable or general social causes. The regulations of how this will be enacted have not yet been released, but mass efforts to connect member to member will each and every member will be necessary. All indications are that the most successful way to do this will be to demonstrate our desire to advocate for public health care, indicate that the Kenney government wishes to quash this type of work, and ask members to opt in.

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Component Report

Privatization Researchers, Communications Staff and Campaigners Videoconference

Component Reporting: BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU)

Number of members: Approximately 83,000

1. Government/political climate:

An election has been called by NDP for October 24 in a bid to consolidate power while approval numbers are high (largely from containing covid and implementing protections for financial impacts to individuals and businesses). Liberal Party leader (Andrew Wilkinson) is relatively unpopular. The Greens are finding their footing under new provincial party leader (Sonia Furstenau.)

2. Collective bargaining update:

Bargaining in the public service concluded in 2019; the PSA will expire in 2022. Further discussion and/or updates re: bargaining will be offered during our meeting.

3. Significant grievance arbitration decisions:

TBD

4. What services are currently at risk of privatization in your province?

Nothing under direct threat at the moment.

Liquor Distribution Branch continues to weigh options for changing their handling of non- stock wholesale products. One option involves outsourcing to a third-party operator, which the union would vigorously oppose should the discussion become more serious. However, no decisions/changes are immediately pending.

Fallout from the Liberals' financial mismanagement of B.C.'s public auto insurance corporation (ICBC) has seen the occasional suggestion of privatization (which is not a new thing discussion in our province). This is highly unlikely to occur, however, and large-scale reforms under the current NDP government are going in a very different direction.

5. Have any privatized services been brought back under public ownership in your province?

Home support services are almost fully repatriated into the Health Authorities and now fall under the Community Health Sectoral Agreement.

6. Long-term care:

a) Does your Component represent workers in long-term care homes?

Yes. Care aides and other workers.

b) If yes, have they been affected by contracting out of services within the long- term care homes (such as food or laundry services)?

Under the previous Liberal government, many services were contracted out and those service contracts remain in place. HEU has re-organized many of these workers, but the manipulative practice of flipping contracts has made it extremely challenging to maintain these agreements.

7. COVID-19:

- a) **Has the COVID-19 pandemic been used to justify any privatization of public services either on the grounds that the public sector doesn't have the resources or to assist businesses?**

Not so far.

- b) **Is the provincial government privatizing testing/tracing?**

No. So far these services are being delivered via the Provincial Health Services Authority and regional authorities, and the BCCDC.

8. Major campaigns and communications:

- "Seniors Deserve Better" (2020) - ending for-profit delivery of long-term care
- \$10-a-Day Child Care
- Money Laundering
- Affordable BC / affordable housing (via LVC / speculation tax)
- Pandemic Pay for frontline workers (March - June, 2020)



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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