



New Brunswick
Nurses Union

Syndicat des
infirmières et infirmiers
du Nouveau-Brunswick

Federal Announcement of Financial Assistance to provinces for LTC sector

Recently, the federal government announced helping provinces with financial support to pay workers in the long-term care sector a better wage. This came to light with the devastating news of outbreaks, lack of staff and deplorable conditions in private and some public long-term care facilities in Quebec and Ontario. Fortunately for our seniors in NB who live in long-term care facilities, this is not their reality.

We understand that the driving force for these additional payments in Quebec was to mitigate the potential of health care workers in the long-term care sector leaving their jobs to take advantage of the \$2,000 a month being promised by the Federal government.

As a result of these developments, we have been getting many good questions about whether (or when) New Brunswick will implement the same temporary pay increases, as “hazard pay”, “danger pay”, “pandemic pay”, etc. To date, NBNU has focused on ensuring the safety of our members, patients, residents, clients and the healthcare system in general. We also hold regular teleconferences with CUPE, NBU, the Department of Health, Treasury Board and the RHA’s. The topic of pandemic pay has been raised, and as recently as last week, had not been rejected outright by Treasury Board.

Despite Premier Higgs rejecting the offer of federal money and opining that NB’s healthcare workers haven’t faced extra demand due to COVID-19, NBNU members can rest assured that will not be the end of the discussion with government. We will provide updates as they become available.

We recognize the stress our members are facing with going to work everyday and we continue to ensure proper protection is readily available to help decrease the risk of transmission. As Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, we have the knowledge and expertise to deal with communicable diseases, viruses and contagions. New Brunswick is depending on your efforts during this uncertain and stressful time.

Stay Safe!

In solidarity,
Paula Doucet
NBNU President

