

Update July 6, 2020

As the province has moved completely into Stage 2, we begin to see more things starting to open. Here at the local we are preparing to welcome members back. You will see some changes that have been implemented, such as screens, floor markings and protocols enabled to help protect both members and staff. The actual date for re-opening is still not definite as we are awaiting on materials which have been delayed in delivery. Once all are in place, we will contact everyone to let them know. The July Unit Meetings have been cancelled due to the restrictions on public gatherings still being at 10.

While there are some who have chosen to be off during this pandemic and others who have continued working, we must be mindful that just because the provincial government has moved to the next stage it doesn't indicate the pandemic is over. In fact, just the opposite is true, with less restrictions there is more of a chance of being infected. We have witnessed what has happened in areas where restrictions were removed too soon or too broadly, infection rates have increased dramatically. The precautions and protocols have proven to work and must be followed to reduce our chances of contracting or transmitting the virus.

We are also looking at dispatch in person, however given the uptake in online bidding, the preference would be to have a very limited in-person dispatch. As it is now, we are working on how an in-person dispatch could be conducted following the provincial health guidelines.

It is important that all members report the change in their employment status to dispatch. When you go back to work is important so we can track and monitor remittances on your behalf.

CALL DISPATCH AND REPORT WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO WORK

When the Trustees devised the Relief Grant it was to be in lock step with the Federal Government's Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB). As we know the CERB was extended for an additional 8 weeks and the trustees made the decision to extend the relief grant as well. Now members are entitled to apply for a total of 24 weeks. The same eligibility requirements apply as it did in the previous 16 weeks. We have also had cases where members have been paid \$0 for a reporting week as they had received upfront monies from the government. It is important that you also supply the payment history with your relief grant application. Failure to send in the proof of payment will delay the benefit from being paid out. Please indicate on your application the method of payment you would like. There are only two options, by regular mail or by e-transfer. The preferred method would be by e-transfer as it get to you faster and is secure.

Please be vigilant, be safe and be healthy. We are in this together.