



OSBCU President Laura Walton describes that 55,000 CUPE represented Education Workers have power when we organize. See **Organizing to Build Power** on page 2.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

General Membership Meetings 2021-2022	Sat. February 26, 2022 – 10 a.m. Zoom registration – bottom of this page Saturday April 30, 2022 – 10 a.m.
February 21, 2022	Family Day Statutory Holiday
April 15, 2022	Deadline to apply for the 2022-2023 CUPE 997 student bursary

## CUPE 997 STUDENT BURSARIES

**(Deadline for applications April 15, 2022)**

Your Local is again this year, providing an opportunity for your child / dependent to win one of two \$500 bursaries to assist with their post-secondary education costs for the 2022-2023 school year. For the online application form please click [HERE](#).

Please note that the deadline to submit an application is April 15th, 2022. Good luck to all that enter!

The random draw will take place at the April 30th Regular General Meeting.

**REGULAR GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26 @10:00 A.M.**

Pre-registration is required in advance for this meeting clicking [HERE](#). Or

[https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZord-CpqDwtHNV\\_31GgKDIMdzG4W5Tnn-hB](https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZord-CpqDwtHNV_31GgKDIMdzG4W5Tnn-hB)

## CUPE EDUCATION WORKERS' BENEFITS TRUST

One plan - United to the core



## EWBT HEALTHCARE SPENDING ACCOUNT

On January 26<sup>th</sup> the Education Workers' Benefits Trust sent all members enrolled in the trust an update announcing the time limited \$1000 Health Care Spending Account.

### ***In a nutshell...***

The time-limited HCSA will provide \$1,000 in credits to each CUPE Education worker enrolled in the CUPE EWBT benefit plan, helping them pay the costs of [eligible expenses \(as outlined under Canada's Income Tax Act\)](#) that may not be covered under the CUPE EWBT plan, or for benefits subjected to benefit year or lifetime maximums that members may have already reached. This new feature can be used for eligible expenses incurred between December 15, 2021 and August 31, 2022. If part of a claim incurred during this time period wasn't covered by the CUPE EWBT benefits plan, members may be able to submit the unpaid portion for reimbursement under their time-limited HCSA. It can be used for expenses incurred by the member, their spouses and/or eligible dependents (as long as they're claimable as dependents on the member's income tax return).

### ***There is something for all members of the plan.***

Members can choose to use all or a portion of the HCSA to be reimbursed for the monthly deductions for premiums they pay into the plan. OTIP will issue receipts at the end of August 2022 for this purpose.

### ***What's next?***

There will be a lot more information coming mid-February including the announcement of a webinar for members on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Canada Life is currently setting up a dedicated phoneline to answer member's questions and the [EWBT Trust](#) is updating their website shortly so that our members better understand the HCSA

## SENIORITY LISTS HAVE BEEN POSTED

Seniority Lists for permanent and casual staff were posted on January 26. As per Article 12.05 of the Collective Agreement it is recommended that each member review and confirm that your information is correct on the seniority list. Any dispute of the information on the list is required to be sent to David Warner and William Campbell within 15 working days of the lists being posted.



We all know someone touched by cancer. There is help. The CAREpath Navigation System, Survivor Support Program and Cancer Information Line are available to eligible OTIP members at no additional cost. CAREpath Inc. is a Canadian company providing services to help you navigate the complex health care system so you and your family members who are newly-diagnosed with cancer or have a cancer recurrence can receive the very best cancer-related treatment and support.

For more information, please follow the following link:

<https://otip.carepath.ca/>



## Leasing vs. buying a car: What's best for me?

Both leasing and buying have their benefits and drawbacks, so the right choice all depends on your budget, driving needs and lifestyle. We've outlined some of the key factors to consider when deciding between leasing versus buying your next vehicle to help you determine which option is best for you.

Read more at [www.otip.com/article135](http://www.otip.com/article135).

## ORGANIZING TO BUILD POWER

OSBCU is holding engaging and interactive Member Mobilizing Training for Education Worker members from across the province. The first session took place Saturday February 5 with more sessions scheduled the week of Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and on Feb 26.

The mobilizing training is designed to build our collective power to prepare us to take on those that would see us lose ground or want us to simply maintain the status quo at the bargaining table.



*Some of the CUPE 997 members who were took the interactive training on Saturday February 5 during our breakout session.*

In the weeks ahead, you can expect that a coworker is going to speak to you about the current wage freeze legislation, lack of staffing supports and how we can push back by engaging with our membership.

If you are unhappy with the wage freeze currently in effect for Education Workers or you want additional CUPE members at your worksite and you think you or one of your coworkers might be interested in assisting with this project or would simply like more information, please reach out to [president@cupe997.ca](mailto:president@cupe997.ca)

## SICK LEAVE VS QUARANTINE LEAVE

(For Perm employees) (Temp employees may be able to access sick leave)

1. If a CUPE member fails the screen because they have mild symptom(s), but they would have otherwise attended work, the member should get in touch with their supervisor to make arrangements. This would be coded as "quarantine" and is not deducted from sick leave. **NOTE:** Quarantine is available to all members even if they cannot conduct their work from their home.
2. If member fails the screen because they have symptoms and are not well enough to work from home then that would be coded as "ill" or "Short Term Disability".
3. If member fails the screen due to exposure or because they live with a symptomatic person and/or a person who is isolating, the member should be in touch with their supervisor to make arrangements to work from home and be coded as "quarantine". If the member cannot work from home, it would be coded as "quarantine".