

**National Executive Board Meeting #311**  
**October 7–9, 2020**  
**Videoconference**



**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

**National Officers:** *Larry Brown, President*  
*Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer*

**Vice-Presidents  
and  
Board Members:**

*Stephanie Smith, BCGEU*  
*Paul Finch, BCGEU*  
*Kari Michaels, BCGEU*  
*Val Avery, HSABC*  
*Mike Parker, HSAA*  
*Trudy Thomson, HSAA*  
*Roseann Strelezki, SGEU*  
*Tracey Sauer, SGEU*  
*Michelle Gawronsky, MGEU*  
*Charlotte McWilliams, MGEU*  
*Warren (Smokey) Thomas, OPSEU*  
*Sara Labelle, OPSEU*  
*Gaurav Sharma, CUBGW, Comp. 325*  
*Susie Proulx-Daigle, NBU*  
*Jason MacLean, NSGEU*  
*Sandra Mullen, NSGE*  
*Karen Jackson, PEI UPSE*  
*Jerry Earle, NAPE*  
*Arlene Sedlickas, NAPE*

**Observers:** *Danielle Marchand, BCGEU*  
*Miriam Sobrino, HSABC*  
*Jerry Toews, HSAA*  
*Jean-Guy Bourgeois, MGEU*  
*Leigh Sprague, NBU*

**Staff:** *Len Bush*  
*Brenda Hildahl*  
*Deb Sonogo*



## **SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Roseann Strelezki, SGEU's Acting President and Secretary Treasurer, was sworn in as a member of the National Executive Board as the National Vice-President for SGEU.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### ***Paul Finch, BCGEU/NUPGE Investment Fund***

On the morning of Thursday, October 26, 2020, Brother Paul Finch made a PowerPoint presentation to the members of the National Executive Board on the Investment Fund structure developed by the BCGEU. He indicated that his Component had made the decision to substantially change investment strategy direction in an effort to lower management fees, divest of fossil fuel investments, and to empower shareholder activism by ensuring a more ethical investment of members' money that is more in line with the policies set by their Convention.

Brother Finch concluded by offering to make a more detailed presentation to any Component who requests it. Brother Brown said that the National Union was prepared to arrange a more comprehensive seminar on the fund's framework should a number of Components express interest.

### ***Lily Chang, Candidate for CLC Secretary-Treasurer***

Brother Brown introduced Sister Lily Chang who, in addition to being the long-serving Treasurer of CUPE Local 79, has been on the Executive Board of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council for the past 4 years. For this labour council she chairs the Municipal Committee and is the Executive liaison to the Women's Committee. She recently completed a 7-year term as Labour Representative on the Board of Trustees for the United Way of Greater Toronto. He stated that Sister Chang is running for the position of Secretary-Treasurer on the CLC Executive.

Sister Chang stated that she was eager to be running with Sisters Bea Bruske from United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) and Siobhan Vipond, a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), who are also seeking positions on the CLC Executive. When treasurer of her local, Chang oversaw a budget of \$14 million, which is comparable to the CLC's annual budget of \$22 million. She also felt that her experience in guiding her local out of debt and into a sound financial position would serve her in her efforts to get the CLC back on track financially.

She argued that labour must work harder to ensure that the federal government's promises for national Pharmacare, child care, and standards of care in long-term care residences are realized. However, she recognized the important role that province's play in Canada's social and political life. In particular, Alberta's Bill 32, presents a serious threat to workers and union rights.

Brother Larry Brown, in thanking Sister Chang for her presentation, pointed out that the pandemic has presented difficulties in ensuring there are fair CLC elections and that holding a virtual convention that works for all affiliates will be challenging.

### ***Strategic Planning***

In opening the session on strategic planning, Brother Brown stated that the expectation for this session is to identify the mission, vision, values and objectives of the National Union, set priorities, and determine the steps to achieve those priorities. He commented that doing this process via videoconference clearly presented some challenges but that it was a necessary exercise.

Brother Brown thanked the members of the Executive Board for taking the time to respond to his request to provide their strategic planning comments via the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis Worksheet Template that was sent to them earlier. A robust and wide-ranging discussion was held based on the results of the SWOT Analysis.

Brother Brown agreed to prepare a report based on the NEB's discussion during this strategic planning session, along with the SWOT comments, and he committed to furthering the discussion at a future Board meeting.

Following the discussion by the members of the National Executive Board, it was

**PROPERLY MOVED AND SECONDED** that NUPGE use some funds to begin the process of rebranding and refreshing.

**CARRIED**

### **1. AGENDA**

Properly **MOVED AND SECONDED**, adoption of the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

### **2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #310**

Properly **MOVED AND SECONDED**, adoption of the following Board minutes:

- #310, July 9, 2020, Videoconference

**CARRIED**

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In his opening remarks, Brother Larry Brown reviewed the agenda with the members of the Board and gave the National Union's land acknowledgement.

Brother Brown indicated that due to COVID-19, only the finance administrator is back working regularly in the National office. He noted that everyone has been on a steep

learning curve but is functioning well, as evidenced by the volume of work from the start of the pandemic in March to July of 2020.

Brother Brown stated he was extremely proud of the work that has been accomplished by the staff and officers. He felt strongly that the role played by the National Union during the pandemic should form part of the strategic planning in order to capture the successes going forward.

Across the country, people are feeling a sense of dread with the coming of a second wave of COVID-19. There is obvious serious concern about overwhelming hospitals and health care staff. He further stated that there have been some ugly responses to health care workers, with people in their communities actively avoiding and shunning them.

A secondary worry is the provinces responding to the deficits that are being created as a result of supporting Canadian citizens as they experience job loss. Brother Brown anticipates that austerity, the same old response of right-wing governments, will be used to justify a cutback on public services.

Brother Brown sees that dealing with the anticipated austerity response by provinces will form a large part of the National Union's work going forward. Focus will remain on the fight to get long-term care covered under the *Canada Health Act* and that the Cambie case in British Columbia still warrants close attention.

As well, the National Union will continue to monitor Alberta Premier Jason Kenney's draconian measures in both the health care sector and his attack on working people. This latter is seen in changes in the labour code that will help usher in a Right-to-Work regime.

Brother Brown and Sister Avery explained that HSABC commissioned a new report from Dr. John Murphy, adjunct professor at the University of Toronto in public health, with an update on the science on COVID-19 transmission. The report has declared that COVID-19 is spread by aerosols beyond 6 feet and that better protections need to be made available to health care staff, which should include N95 masks. This report is a significant contribution to the discussions around health and safety for health care workers.

Federally, the throne speech contained many promises that sound encouraging. It needs to be remembered that these come largely because of the Liberal minority government needing NDP support. It is expected that we will see more funding announcements from the federal government. However, implementation will be the question and whether the federal government will demand accountability from provinces for how they spend the transfer. A number of provinces are already trying to assert their jurisdictional rights with regard to how they spend federal monies.

#### **4. RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

##### **a) NUPGE's Response to COVID-19**

Brother Brown referred the members to the document entitled "NUPGE's Response to COVID-19" and asked National Union Managing Director, Len Bush, to provide the Board with a review of the document. Brother Bush indicated that a decision was made to do a comprehensive report on National Union meetings, letters, and reports that had taken place, from the March 2020 start of the Canadian response to the pandemic, to the end of September 2020. The National Union feels that a record should be kept of this historic and turbulent time and that it will be updated periodically.

He commented that the working group videoconferences have been well received and that the National Union and its Components have successfully met the many challenges the pandemic has presented. The few months are a testimony to our success in serving our members, and we have experienced a large uptake in our online engagement.

Brother Brown echoed these remarks and emphasized the necessity of Components doing a full history for the record. He asked that Components share the document widely amongst their membership. Sister Avery shared that HSABC/NUPGE was working on a video history of her Component's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

##### **b) The Provincial Role in Canada's Post-COVID Economic Recovery**

Members of the National Executive Board were referred to the paper, "The Provincial Role in Canada's Post-COVID Economic Recovery," which was previously sent to them. Brother Brown asked the Board to consider sending it to their provincial governments if they have not already done so.

##### **c) Fighting Post COVID Austerity**

Brother Brown reported that the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) is working on a report on provincial austerity prior to COVID-19. The report is expected to be completed soon and will be shared with the Board when it is available.

#### **5. FALL NATIONAL UNION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Brother Brown provided brief reports on the following National Union videoconferences that took place during September:

##### **a) Liquor Board/Cannabis Retail Representatives, September 22, 2020**

##### **b) Working Session for Correctional Officers and Youth Facility Workers, September 24–25, 2020**

##### **c) Occupational Health and Safety Officers, September 25, 2020**

- d) **Communications Officers, September 25, 2020**
- e) **Advisory Committee on the Environment, September 28–29, 2020**
- f) **Privatization Researchers, September 29, 2020**
- g) **COVID-19 Response: Broader Discussion Group (Big Tent), September 30, 2020**
- h) **Collective Bargaining Advisory Committee, October 1–2, 2020**

## **6. UPCOMING NATIONAL UNION EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Brother Larry Brown referred members to the following NEB memos that contained the details of upcoming events and activities. He noted that the memos had been emailed to them previously.

Brother Brown provided relevant background for some of the meetings.

a) **Special Committee on Child Care, October 13, 2020, Videoconference—NEB Memo #2020-093**

Included in this memo was a link to a letter from President Larry Brown to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Ahmed Hussen, about the urgent need for a national child care system.

Template letters have been sent to the Components, and he asked that Components who have not already done so, consider sending letters to their Premiers. He further requested that the templates be shared with their activists to encourage them to also forward them.

Brother Brown announced that a Child Care Now lobby will be supported by NUPGE and asked that Components send the names and contact information of those members who would be interested in participating.

b) **Post-secondary Education Representatives Videoconference, October 15, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-099**

This videoconference is intended for elected representatives and workers in the sector and is a follow up to their meeting on June 8, 2020, regarding the challenges the pandemic has presented.

c) **Advisory Committee on Women’s Issues Videoconference, October 19–20, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-075**

Brother Brown indicated that this meeting would be focused on the issue of domestic violence.

**d) Component Educator's Videoconference, October 27, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-103**

Component Educators will be meeting to share information on their online courses.

**e) NUPGE Legal Strategies Component Coordinating Committee Videoconference, November 3, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-096**

The committee will continue their discussion at their July 10, 2020, meeting regarding developments in Alberta on Bill 30, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, and Bill 32, Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act.

**f) NUPGE Probation Officers Videoconference, November 4, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-097**

**g) Advisory Committee on Young Workers' Issues Videoconference, November 10, 2020—NEB Memo #2020-104**

**h) Canadian Health Professionals Secretariat, November 19–20, 2020, Videoconference—NEB Memo #2020-102**

## **7. FINANCES**

### **a) Report from Finance Committee**

Brother Blundon reported on the meeting of the National Union Finance Committee that took place on October 6, 2020. He indicated that the committee is considering a paperless format for future Board meetings and is studying the Diligent portal software program for providing NEB meeting documents. A quote of approximately \$20,000/year has been received, although the usual cost is \$50,000/year.

### **b) Financial Statements**

Brother Blundon referred the members of the National Executive Board to the most recent National Union Financial Statements that had been forwarded to the NEB prior to this meeting. He stated that the members of the National Union Finance Committee had thoroughly reviewed these documents. He stated that the union's equity position is approximately \$3.4 million with \$1.4 million of that allocated to the Contingency Fund.

The process of investing surplus funds continues, with a placement of \$2 million with RBC Dominion Securities. \$1.3 million of this amount has been invested in an equity/bond fund. The intent is to make a higher return with an investment portfolio designed to match our Long-Term Liabilities, particularly those accrued by staff. Blundon has also worked with RBC Dominion Securities to purchase 3 GICs with a rate of return of 2.5%–2.7%, with the remaining amount of the \$700,000 initial placement in a high-interest savings account, positioning NUPGE to take advantage

of any opportunity that may present itself. The committee continues to work on an investment strategy for NUPGE that will not carry an undue risk.

Brother Blundon stated that the National Union has total assets of \$6.2 million and \$2 million in liabilities. He reported that the Finance Committee has recommended changes to the Accrued Severance, Vacation and Employee Future Benefits (Health and Dental) liabilities to fully fund staff benefits agreed upon in the 2 staff collective agreements, and those accrued by the Officers and non-bargaining unit staff. The Finance Committee has recommended that a Staff Benefits Account be set up to make this commitment clear. Following a discussion of the Board, it was

**PROPERLY MOVED AND SECONDED** that the National Union create an internal restricted fund for the staff benefits accounts.

**CARRIED**

In continuing his report, Brother Blundon indicated that the Finance Committee no longer sees the need for a Convention Fund. He stated that this fund was created when NUPGE had cash flow issues. As this is no longer the case, the National Union Convention expenses of \$500,000 can be budgeted for in the year that the Convention occurs. There is a small chance of going into deficit in a Convention year. However, given the overall positive financial position of the National Union, it would not have an adverse impact on our operations.

As recommended by the National Union Finance Committee, and following a discussion of the Board, it was

**PROPERLY MOVED AND SECONDED** to remove the Convention Fund from the National Union Balance Sheet, as convention expenditures will be treated as a current account expense in the year the expenses occur.

**CARRIED**

The Finance Committee was concerned that there is no record on the Balance Sheet for the National Executive Board's past commitment of a \$1 million Component Strike Fund. As recommended by the National Union Finance Committee, and following a discussion of the Board, it was

**PROPERLY MOVED AND SECONDED** that a \$1 million Defense Fund be created on the Balance Sheet as a restricted fund.

**CARRIED**

### **c) Budget Update**

Brother Blundon predicted that the National Union will have a significant surplus as a result of having to cancel in-person meetings in favour of virtual ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the CLC has delayed its Convention until 2021, so this expenditure will not occur. The decision was made to pay off the CLC special dues assessment early saving interest charges that were accruing. As well, Leadership



Development School and the Environmental and Youth Conference will not be taking place. The \$500,000 budgeted for communications will see very few expenditures. There will be more expenditures in the Office Operations and Administration, as new laptops were needed due to COVID-19, and the staff has been required to work from home. As well, there has been a significant adjustment on Anticipated Revenue due to OPSEU/NUPGE's conservative reporting on their payable dues. Brother Blundon was pleased to report that 6 Components have made the donations of 50 cents per member as the result of the pandemic, which NUPGE has matched.

Brother Blundon reported on an inadvertent error due to a hidden Excel miscalculation in the 2020 National Union Budget that was previously passed by the Board. He indicated that the NUPGE Statement of Earnings now shows a \$447,985 deficit and that a motion was needed to accept the corrected the 2020 Budget. He did clarify that due to the aforementioned increased revenue and non-expenditures by the National Union, this deficit will likely result in a significant surplus by year's end.

Following a discussion of the Board it was

**PROPERLY MOVED AND SECONDED** that the 2020 National Union Budget be accepted as revised.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED AND SECONDED** a motion to accept the Financial Report of the Treasurer.

**CARRIED**

## **8. LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBERTA**

### **a) Bill 32 – RavenLaw Opinion**

Brother Brown referred Board members to a letter from Andrew Astritis of the National Union's law firm of Raven, Cameron, Ballantyne and Yazbeck, which contained their legal opinion of Alberta's Bill 32, the Restoring Balance in Alberta's Workplaces Act. Brother Brown commented that they advised that there are reasonable grounds to pursue a Charter challenge, with the restrictions on picketing activity being the most vulnerable to challenge, as these are an attack on freedom of expression.

He reported that Dan Scott, HSAA's lawyer, and Andrew Astritis are working together, and both the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) and Alberta Union of Public Employees (AUPE) have hired lawyers separately. It is thought that the real legal response will follow the release of the long-delayed regulations for Bill 32.

Brother Brown also indicated that the prohibition on using dues for political contributions (which have yet to be defined) will negatively impact many civil society organizations' revenues. This effect will also be felt by many of the province's central labour bodies.

Brown reaffirmed the commitment of NUPGE to provide financial support to HSAA/NUPGE in the struggle against this bill.

**b) Bill 30**

The National Union's web story and backgrounder on Alberta's Bill 30, the Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020, was provided to the members of the National Executive Board. Brother Brown commented that the act will result in the privatization of much of Alberta's health care system and will usher in 2-tiered health care. Also included was the letter written to Prime Minister Trudeau and his Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, expressing the concern that the legislation has the potential to affect health care delivery across Canada.

**9. RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS IN LONG-TERM CARE**

Brother Brown commented that the really strong push this spring calling for long-term care homes for seniors to be not-for-profit and public only has met with overwhelming support from the public. With the sole exception of Northwood in Nova Scotia, which has been starved of funding for over 2 decades, the deaths and illnesses due to COVID-19 have been mainly in private sector facilities.

Sister Val Avery brought to the Board's attention that the need for multidisciplinary teams (i.e., physiotherapists, recreational and respiratory therapists) should be part of the discussion).

Brother Brown informed the Board that a report from the National Union will be forthcoming and will outline new standards and demand new federal money. He indicated that tracking COVID-19 positive tests and mortality rates between private and public homes is critical.

**10. DECISION ON THE CAMBIE CASE**

Board members were provided with the National Union web story on the momentous win in the Cambie case. Brother Brown commented that in its ruling against Dr. Brian Day, the Supreme Court of British Columbia delivered a strong opinion that its decision cannot be appealed on the facts. Justice Steeves declared that private clinics have no legal argument to promote queue-jumping based on ability to pay rather than medical need.

Despite Dr. Day's announcement of filing of an appeal, it would appear that it will have to be on procedure only. Brother Brown advised Board members that getting the case to the Supreme Court of Canada will now be exceedingly difficult, as the process requires litigants to ask for a leave to appeal. The BC Health Coalition has reached out to their legal team, as they intend to maintain the fight against Dr. Day. Although the cost of proceeding is unknown at this time, HSABC is committed to continuing their financial support.

## **11. SPECIAL ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE**

### **a) Feedback from the Special Anti-Racism Committee**

Brother Brown referred members to the document “Feedback from the Special Anti-racism Committee” that was developed as a result of the committee’s July 20, 2020, meeting. It is hoped that it will be a starting point to ensuring that the National Union and its Components become racism free. Committee Co-Chair, Brother MacLean commented that efforts vary across Components but that the HSABC Survey was an excellent tool for all Components to consider using. He also mentioned the work of OPSEU in their townhall meeting.

He indicated that Committee members would like to continue to work on this issue and are looking for a commitment from the National Union and its Components to have similar videoconferences at least twice a year.

Brother Brown reviewed the recommendations in the report, indicating that the National Union is committed to implementing all 9.

Sister Smith reported that BCGEU, in its efforts to combat racism and discrimination, will be setting up 4 distinct committees: Workers of Colour, Indigenous Workers, LGBTQ2SI Workers and Workers with a Disability. Sister Avery stated that HSABC is attempting to elevate the subject of Indigenous racism in health care. She stated that BC unions had worked with the BC government to formulate recommendations for employers by the end of the year. In preparing the report, they have reached out to Indigenous workers or those who have accessed health care.

Brother Brown asked that members of the Board consider asking members to attend the CLC Anti-racism town hall as the uptake has been poor. He directed that NEB memo #2020-107, entitled Virtual Town Hall on COVID-19: Recovery, Racism, and the Impacts on Workers, be resent with registration details prior to the end of this Board meeting.

## **12. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE**

Brother Brown indicated that sisters Stephanie Smith and National Union representative Nadia Ibrahim are co-chairing the National Union Committee on Child Care, and referred members of the National Executive Board to the following, which had been provided to them earlier:

- a) NUPGE Letter to Federal Minister Hussen**
- b) Template—Letter to Minister Hussen re universal child care**
- c) Template—Letter to Premier re universal child care**
- d) Child Care Now Lobby—NEB Memo #2020-105**

### **13. RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE**

#### **a) Domestic Violence and the Workplace: How Non-Canadian Jurisdictions Have Implemented Workplace Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Sister Hildahl reported that the added stress of the pandemic has resulted in an exacerbation of domestic violence. Over the summer, an intern at RavenLaw was provided, pro bono to NUPGE, to research and write the report entitled *Domestic Violence and the Workplace: How Non-Canadian Jurisdictions Have Implemented Workplace Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence*.

As a result of this research, 8 recommendations have been developed and the National Union will be sending letters with the report to the applicable federal ministers.

### **14. CANADA'S OPIOID CRISIS AND MENTAL INJURY**

Brother Brown sadly reported that, in some provinces, the number of opioid crisis deaths are equal to, or greater than, those caused by COVID-19. He remarked that the pandemic has made the situation even worse. He reminded the members of the Board that a meeting was held on this issue 3 years ago, and another was planned, but was held up by the pandemic. Due to the continuing crisis, the National Union is now planning a virtual meeting that will feature 1 or 2 speakers to bring new information to the participants. It is hoped that the sharing of new treatment regimes will assist members in their work.

### **15. VIRTUAL MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS**

Brother Brown indicated that the NBU appears to be the first Component to hold a virtual convention, with HSABC's taking place shortly after; however, most conventions continue to be postponed. He opined that the COVID-19 pandemic may start wrapping up should a vaccine be developed, but that it is currently impossible to predict when an in-person convention may be possible. The National Union is in the process of gathering information on how to proceed. He asked that Executive Board members forward any successes they have experienced with virtual meetings, so that a collective knowledge base can be developed.

### **16. KEY COMPONENT ACTIVITIES**

Board members gave an update on major bargaining and political activities that their Component is currently involved in. Brother Brown reported that it would appear the popularity of unions has gone up, and that there has been an uptake in organizing inquiries.

Members of the Board collectively reported their concern that there will be a wave of post-pandemic fiscal issues coming.

## 17. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

### a) Convention and Other Matters

Brother Brown reported that it was agreed at the CLC Executive Committee meeting on October 1, 2020, that the convention will be held prior to the end of June 2021, with the date yet to be determined. Given the upsurge of COVID-19, it was understood that it may not be realistic to hold an in-person convention, and that a virtual one may have to take its place. CLC staff are preparing a report on managing a virtual convention for the Executive Committee to consider.

Brother Brown also reported that the CLC Executive Committee did not feel that the 6-week sanction the Teamsters received for raiding the UFCW was a sufficient consequence, especially in light of the fact that they have been able to keep those members.

He also reported that President Yussuff provided a fairly cursory report on CLC restructuring, but that he is very aware of the Atlantic staff vacancy problem. President Yussuff did say that the position in the CLC Halifax office should be filled shortly.

Brother Brown ended by discussing the CLC document “Defunding the Police” that was tabled at the CLC Canadian Council meeting on October 6, 2020.

### b) Moving Forward Together Campaign

Brother Brown referred the members of the Board to the document provided to them entitled *Forward Together: A Canadian Plan*, indicating that this campaign had been well received by the CLC membership. The 3 pivotal planks are

- Governments must replace the jobs that have been lost with better ones by making new investments in infrastructure, public services, safe workplaces, domestic procurement and manufacturing, a green economy, and the care economy.
- Governments must address the shortfalls in health care by making new investments that bring long-term care and prescription drugs into our universal public health care system, expand access to mental health services, and strengthen our ability to respond to the next public health crisis.
- Governments must disaster-proof our social safety net by overhauling the Employment Insurance program and making new investments in child care, retirement security, affordable housing, education and skills training.

The last phase of the campaign will focus on engaging the over 400,000 identified activists to drive direct actions designed to place pressure on local, regional, and national decision-makers to ensure governments respond to the demands.

## **18. PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL**

### **a) Webinar: Privatization and Public Services: A Conversation with Current and Former UN Special Rapporteurs, October 19, 2020**

Members of the National Executive Board were provided with information and the web link to an online discussion that will take place on October 19, 2020.

### **b) Virtual Forum: The International Hospital Federation is Organizing the Virtual Forum called Learning from COVID-19, Transforming Health Services, November 4–5, 2020**

Brother Brown referred members of the Board to the link to register for the virtual forum Learning from COVID-19. He said that the event will open with PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli speaking during the open plenary session: People at the forefront in fighting COVID-19.

## **19. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES**

Brother Brown asked that Board members advise his office of their availability for the following dates for the next meeting of the National Board:

- November 30 and December 1, 2020, **or**
- December 15 and 16, 2020

## **20. FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **a) The Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award**

Brother Brown informed the members of the Board that the CLC has extended the deadline for nominations for the Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award until October 30, 2020. The award was established to recognize a union member for their disability rights activism.

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Larry Brown  
President

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Bert Blundon  
Secretary-Treasurer