



report

Government Relations: Letters and Replies

March - December 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

Government Relations: Letters and Replies

March – December 2020

December 2

To: Mary NG, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

Re: Urging the government to support the proposal of India, South Africa, Kenya, Eswatini, Pakistan, and Mozambique for a “Waiver from Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19”

November 26

To: Filomena Tassi, Minister of Labour copies sent to Prime Minister Trudeau, Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women & Gender Equality and Leaders of the Opposition Parties, and Hassan Yussuff, President, CLC

Re: Calling for ratification of the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190)

Replies:

November 26 Leader, Green Party Annamie Paul acknowledging receipt

November 26 Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development acknowledging receipt

November 25

To: Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Re: Bill C-12, the Canadian *Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*

Replies:

November 25 Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson, acknowledging receipt

November 25 Green Party of Canada acknowledging receipt

November 23

To: Prime Minister Trudeau, Deputy PM and Minister of Finance Freeland and Minister of Health Hajdu

Re: Commending them for their commitment to a universal national pharmacare program and calling for them to put their promises into action (joint letter signed by President Brown and a number of union leaders and in the health care field)

November 17

To: The Honourable Maryam Monsef, PC, MP, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development

Re: Raising concerns about domestic violence effects in the workplace. Sent copy of publication “Domestic Violence and the Workplace: How Non-Canadian Jurisdictions Have Implemented Workplace Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence.”

Replies:

November 17 Annamie Paul Leader, Green Party acknowledging receipt

November 17 Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development acknowledging receipt

November 12

To: Prime Minister Trudeau

Re: Federal government’s failure to protect people in long-term care (LTC) in Canada

November 12

To: Deputy Minister Chrystia Freeland cc Premiers

Re: Need for a national child care system that is universally accessible and publicly funded

Replies:

- November 12 Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister acknowledging receipt
- November 12 NB Premier Higgs acknowledging receipt
- November 12 Québec Premier Legault acknowledging receipt
- November 12 Ontario Premier Ford acknowledging receipt

October 27

To: Provincial Premiers

Re: National Union report: Domestic Violence and the Workplace: How Non-Canadian Jurisdictions Have Implemented Workplace Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence and request for meeting on how your government can make a meaningful impact

Replies:

- October 29 BC Premier Hogan acknowledging receipt
- October 29 Alberta Premier Kenney acknowledging receipt
- October 29 Ontario Premier Ford acknowledging receipt and forwarded to Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development Monte McNaughton for response
- October 29 Québec Premier Legault acknowledging receipt
- October 29 NB Premier Higgs acknowledging receipt
- October 29 NS Premier McNeil acknowledging receipt
- November 3 Ontario Premier's office that Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development would respond (have not received)
- November 3 NB Premier Blaine Higgs office, letter referred to Minister Responsible for Women's Equality, Tammy Scott Wallace re request to meeting on behalf of the Premier
- November 12 Manitoba Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Cathy Cox, replying on behalf of Premier Pallister, both unable to meet

- November 12 NB Minister responsible for Women's Equality Tammy Scott-Wallace, November 12, 2020 acknowledging receipt
- November 24 Nunavut Premier Joe Savikataaq replies to each recommendation
- November 24 BC Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes acknowledging receipt
- November 25 Saskatchewan Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, Don Morgan stating that they had passed Clare's Law and created new interpersonal violence leave
- November 27 Alberta Minister of Labour and Immigration, Jason Copping for Premier Kenney, cc Minister Rajan Sawhney, Community and Social Services, funding and *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act* is awaiting proclamation
- November 30 Newfoundland & Labrador Minister Digital Government and Service NL and responsible for Occupational Health and Safety Division, Sarah Stoodley, January 2020 amendments to the OH & S regulations and Family Violence Leave came into effect under the *Labour Standards Act*.
- December 3 Stephanie McInnes Langely, Executive Director Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women asked to respond on behalf of NS Premier McNeill and Minister of Community Services Kelly Regan, amendments to the *Labour Standards Code* in 2019 re leave and request for us to reach out to Executive Lead Heather Teroway to assist with strengthening NS policy

October 21

- To:** Gordon Pridham, Chairman, Orvana Minerals Corporation; cc Juan Gavidia, CEO; Nuria Menendez, CFO; and Jorge Zeballos, General Secretary, Union of Mining and Metallurgical Workers Paititi
- Re:** Expression of concern with the situation at the Don Mario Complex in Bolivia operated by the subsidiary, Empresa Minera Paititi S.A.

October 20

To: Prime Minister Trudeau

Re: Urging the government to withdraw its appeal of Federal Court Justice ruling that the *Safe Third Country Agreement* between Canada and the US

Replies:

October 22 PM Trudeau acknowledging receipt and forwarded to Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino

October 30 Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Marco Mendicino Federal government appealed the Federal Court's July 2020 ruling on the STCA and as a result the STCA remains in effect until a decision on that appeal is made

October 7

To: François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs Arbitrary detention of Cihan Erdal by Turkey

Replies:

October 7 Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne acknowledging receipt

September 23

To: Jennifer Zelmer, President and CEO, Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and Chris Power, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Re: Concerns about bias in their report Reimagining Care for Older Adults: Next Steps in COVID-19 Response in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes

Replies:

September 29 Colby Williams, Executive Assistant, Office of the President, offer to schedule a virtual meeting

September 29 Jennifer Zelmer, President and CEO, Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, thanks for agreeing to connect this week.

August 24

To: François-Phillippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Re: Killing of Trade unionist, Zara Alvarez in the Philippines

Replies:

August 24 MANIL (General / Generale) acknowledging receipt and are forwarding it to the relevant section of the embassy

August 24 Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne acknowledging receipt

July 28

To: Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Patty Hajdu

Re: Alberta's Bill 30 and the potential for conflict with the *Canada Health Act*

July 28

To: Minister Ahmed Hussen

Re: The need for a National Child Care System

July 24

To: Minister Ahmed Hussen

Re: Concern that Social Finance Fund will be used to encourage private investment in the type of services that have traditionally been publicly funded

July 14

To: President of Guatemala

Re: Supporting PSI campaign to raise attention on the increase in violations of the right to freedom of association, collective bargaining and human rights in general in Guatemala

June 30

To: Prime Minister Trudeau
Re: Call for ending Security Certificates

Replies:
July 23 PM Trudeau acknowledging receipt and forwarding to Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco Mendicino

June 30

To: NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh
Re: Asking for support calling for a moratorium on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)

Replies:
June 30 Randall Garrison, MP, Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke NDP Spokesperson for National Defence, Justice, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity acknowledging receipt

June 19

To: Alberta Premier Jason Kenney
Re: Opposition to a private member's bill to repeal Alberta's *Voluntary Blood Donations Act*

June 15

To: Prime Minister Trudeau
Re: Impact of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) cases arising from actions taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic crisis

June 8

To: Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance and Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
Re: CERB and CEWS administration

Replies:

- June 8 Bloc Québécois MP Gabriel Ste-Marie responsible for answering COVID-19 questions for the BC, acknowledging receipt
- June 8 NDP MP Peter Jullian acknowledging receipt
- June 8 Green Party of Canada acknowledging receipt
- June 8 EA to Interim Leader of Green Party of Canada with website for Green Party [Reimagining Our Future](#)

June 4

To: Bill Morneau, PC, MP Minister of Finance

Re: The difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic has created for many pension plans

May 25

To: Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Re: In support of UFCW food processing workers

Replies:

- May 26 UFCW National President Paul Meinema thank you for letter to Minister Bibeau
- July 2 Minister Bibeau indicating that she has been engaging directly with industry representatives including unions UFCW and National Farmers Union

May 7

To: MP Jagmeet Singh

Re: Long-term care crisis and the inclusion of long-term care under the *Canada Health Act*

May 6

To: Prime Minister Trudeau with copies to Premiers

Re: Community Social Services workers and COVID and people experiencing homelessness in Canada

Replies:

May 6 NB Premier Higgs acknowledging receipt

May 6 Québec Premier Legault acknowledging receipt
May 6 Green Party acknowledging receipt

May 6 Ontario Premier Ford acknowledging receipt

May 6 Alberta Premier Kenney acknowledging receipt

May 6 Manitoba Premier Pallister acknowledging receipt

May 6 BC Premier Hogan acknowledging receipt

May 6 PM Trudeau acknowledging receipt and forwarding letter to Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed D. Hussen and Minister of Health Patricia A. Hajdu

April 17

To: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and copied to Leaders of Opposition Parties

Re: Tragedy in residential facilities for care of seniors during the pandemic

Replies:

April 17 Green Party of Canada acknowledging receipt

April 22 Prime Minister Trudeau's office cc Minister of Health Patricia A. Hajdu, acknowledging receipt of correspondence regarding residential care facilities and the *Canada Health Act* and forwarding to the Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu, Minister of Health, for her information and consideration

March 24

To: Provincial Premiers

Re: Calling for the mandating of personal protective equipment (PPE) and report entitled: Respiratory Protection for Health Workers Caring for COVID-19 Patients by Dr. John H. Murphy, Adjunct Professor of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

March 13

To: Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada Public Health Agency of Canada

Re: Urgent call for greater coordinated action related to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Canada and around the world

Replies:

March 13 Public Health Agency of Canada acknowledging receipt

May 25 Dr. Howard Njoo, Deputy Chief Public Health Officer on behalf of Dr. Tam please visit Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses> and www.canada.ca/coronavirus

March 11

To: Prime Minister Trudeau and Premiers of the provinces & territories

Re: Urgent call for greater coordinated action related to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Canada and around the world

Replies:

March 11 Manitoba Premier Pallister acknowledging receipt

March 11 Ontario Premier Ford acknowledging receipt

March 11 BC Premier Horgan acknowledging receipt

April 7 Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, please see following for information and outcomes from meetings of Premiers www.canadaspremiers.ca



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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