



**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
NEW BRUNSWICK - NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK
SYNDICAT CANADIEN DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE**

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October 1, 2021

BY EMAIL
premier@gnb.ca

Hon. Blaine Higgs
Office of the Premier
Chancery Place
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Hon. Higgs:

This is a response to your letter of September 27, 2021, regarding CUPE's offer to return to the bargaining table.

As we have demonstrated and maintained from day one, we have always been respectful and open to free collective bargaining. Our only goal has been, and will remain, to bargain fair wages for our members that provide quality public services to New Brunswick. As you know, our public service is the lowest paid in Canada and CUPE members are the lowest paid of the lowest paid. These New Brunswickers deserve to be respected and paid a fair wage for their hard work.

We have serious concern with your treatment of frontline workers represented by the locals within the Canadian Union of Public Employees. There seems to be willingness for you to bargain with some workers in a fair manner, and without bargaining backwards, and on behalf of our members, we are asking for the same respect.

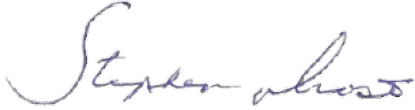
In your response, you refer to four (4) tentative agreements for public service workers that have been reached with two (2) other Public Sector Unions. You state you are prepared to continue bargaining with our locals "providing" we are willing to discuss issues other than wages. These are concessions and you did not impose them on other unions, and they have no place in free collective bargaining.

In the spirit of finding a path forward to bargaining and to help with labour peace in New Brunswick, we are requesting that you remove the concessions from your offer and that negotiations with the Centralized Bargaining Committee resume as soon as possible.

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Removing the concessions will be a signal of good faith in this process, will avoid labour unrest and will show your commitment to these frontline heroes. Investing in these workers and the public services they provide will lead to a fair collective agreement for over 22,000 members.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Drost". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STEPHEN DROST
President

SD/aa:cope491

c.c. S. Teare; S. Harding