

# Provincial Surpluses vs. Your Wage Increases

The Government Had the Money to  
Pay Workers Fairly

Blaine Higgs and the Progressive Conservatives recorded seven consecutive provincial budget surpluses. In 2023, the surplus was over \$1 billion – a historic amount. Every year, they underestimated the budgeted revenues by several million dollars. During this time, we experienced crisis in health care, housing and affordability. Recruitment and retention challenges piled up in the public sector. **In total, the provincial budget surpluses amount to \$2.8 billion since 2018. These surpluses were made on the backs of workers and not paying them a fair wage. Has your life improved since 2018? Have your wages improved?**

Below is a comparison of the provincial surpluses and the average hourly flat rate increases since 2018 for CUPE Locals in Bargaining.

**Average hourly flat rate increases since 2018 for each CUPE Local in Bargaining**

	<b>GNB surplus</b>	<b>963 CA expiry: March 31, 2024</b>	<b>1190 CA expiry: Dec. 15, 2022</b>	<b>1251 CA expiry: June 15, 2022</b>	<b>1252 CA expiry: June 30, 2024</b>	<b>1253 CA expiry: March 31, 2024</b>	<b>1840* CA expiry: Sept. 30, 2021</b>	<b>1866 CA expiry: Dec. 31, 2023</b>	<b>2745** CA expiry: Feb. 28, 2023</b>	<b>NBCNHU CA expiry: Oct. 15, 2022</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>\$60 M</b>	\$0.11/h	\$0.78/h	\$0.71/h	\$0.22/h	\$0.22/h	\$0.79/h	\$0.25/h	\$0.97/h	\$0.32/h
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$63 M</b>	\$0.41/h	\$0.71/h	\$0.73/h	\$0.79/h	\$0.80/h	\$0.80/h	\$0.75/h	\$1.06/h	\$0.32/h
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$35 M</b>	\$0.42/h	\$0.73/h	\$0.74/h	\$0.71/h	\$0.71/h	\$0.82/h	\$0.77/h	\$1.02/h	\$0.33/h
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$400 M</b>	\$0.42/h	\$0.74/h	\$0.76/h	\$0.73/h	\$0.72/h	\$0.84/h	\$0.79/h	\$1.00/h	\$0.45/h
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$767 M</b>	\$0.43/h	\$0.76/h		\$0.74/h	\$0.73/h		\$0.80/h	\$0.88/h	\$0.45/h
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$1.002 B</b>				\$0.76/h	\$0.75/h		\$0.82/h		
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$500.8 M</b>									
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.8 B</b>									

## Notes

- We used the middle pay grade for Locals 1251, 1252, 1840, 1866, 2745 and NBCNHU.
- GNB: Government of New Brunswick
- NBCNHU: New Brunswick Council of Nursing Home Unions
- \* Includes pay equity adjustments to redress historical and systemic wage discrimination of women-dominated jobs.
- \*\* Includes pay equity adjustments for some classifications to redress historical and systemic wage discrimination of women-dominated jobs.



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