



# BARGAINING UPDATE

## HEALTH CARE STRIKE

### Questions & Answers

October 2021

#### **How much is strike pay?**

Strike pay starts the first day of a strike. For the first eight (8) weeks of a strike you get \$300/week. During the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> week, you get \$350/week.

#### **What do I have to do to get strike pay?**

You must perform picket duties. Which means, you must walk a picket line for 4 hours/day for 5 days a week. If you are not physically able to walk a picket line, there are other duties that can be done. You would need to contact the Strike Coordinator of your local if you require an accommodation. The accommodation must be verified that it is for medical reasons. The Strike Coordinator for each local will be shared when we serve notice to go on strike.

#### **What are the rules for being on the picket line?**

Picket lines must be moving. You must walk with a picket sign for the duration of your shift (4 hours). You can take breaks as needed; however, you just must leave the picket line to do so, and you would also need to remove your picket sign. Washroom facilities will be identified when you report for picket duty. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather. You cannot bring a chair or stand still in groups on a picket line.

#### **What about my benefits?**

CUPE pays for the premiums of your group life and extended health benefits for the duration of the strike. If you work essential services shifts you will be paid by the Employer just like normal. Therefore, your benefit premiums would be deducted, and coverage will continue. The pension plan deductions will NOT be paid by CUPE.

#### **What if I am on a leave of absence for medical or other reasons?**

If the third-party insurer (HEB, City of Winnipeg, WCB, MPI, etc.) cuts you off because of the strike, CUPE will provide you with strike pay in lieu. Please contact your Strike Coordinator once a strike is declared if you are on LTD, WCB, MPI, etc.



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### What if I have to work an essential services shift?

Essential services shifts will be shared amongst members qualified to work in that area. If you do work a shift, you will get paid normally from the Employer. You may also get deemed as standby in the event of a sick call or emergency on your unit or department. If you are deemed standby, you must bring your work attire with you to the picket line in case you get called into to work.

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