

**REPORT
OF THE
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
SCOTIA-FUNDY
Marc Blanchard**

This report covers the period from August 2017 to October 2017. It was written prior to the meeting of the National Council to allow for translation. As a result, some information may not be complete and I would suggest that all members visit the UHEW website at www.uhew-stse.ca and www.psaunion.ca for current information.

UHEW Triannual National Convention

August saw the first National Convention of the newly merged Union of Health and Environment Workers Component. Brother Todd Panas was elected as the National President and Sister Shimen Fayed was elected as the National Vice President. A new National Council was also elected, maintaining the regional structure of the two former components. Recommendations on a new regional structure, to be voted on at convention 2020, will be a priority of the new National Council. The first Council meeting was held immediately after convention in which we paid tribute to a number of outgoing RVP's including our own Bob Ellis.

Regional Meetings

In September, I attended the RUMCC and ROHSC for both DFO and for ECCC. I was elected by the other bargaining agents as co-chair of the DFO RUMCC. Phoenix continues dominate discussions at both ECCC and DFO meetings. Hiring practices at DFO also garnered significant discussion during the meeting. I also raised the issue of a new Transfer at Sea Allowance for Fishery Officers and how this will be brought into effect. The next RUMCC/ROHSC for both Departments will be in December.

Local Information

I also took time in September to speak with each Local President to discuss their issues and talk about new ideas as we move forward. I would like to keep the dialogue going not just with me, but between Locals in our region so we can benefit from each other's ideas and experiences.

AGM Season

We are working to establish dates for all of our AGM and at this point it looks as though all our meetings will be complete before the end of December.

Other Meetings

I have been busy organizing and will co-chair a Roundtable meeting on the Green Economy for NB on October 17th in Saint John. We are bringing together Labour, Environmental Groups, Community and Social Justice groups, along with First Nations and Students to discuss local environmental issues, Green jobs, what a shift to a Green Economy would look like and how we are going to get there. I am grateful to have the support of both the UHEW and PSAC for this project. During October I will also be attending New Brunswick Federation of Labour Executive meetings.

November is busy as well with National Council meetings in Halifax along with training for all our elected Council and Alternates. I will also be travelling to Ottawa in November for DFO's National Labour Relations Symposium.

Collective Bargaining

The call for delegates to the 2018 National Bargaining Conference has gone out and the successful candidates will be announced shortly. The deadline for resolutions is approaching so please start thinking about what you would like to see in your next Collective Agreement.