

# BULLETIN

## Shift and weekend premiums will go up substantially

Effective June 13, 2023, evening and night shift premiums will increase by \$1.00 and hour.

Weekend shift premium goes up by \$1.50 an hour.

For those workplaces where both premiums were not payable at the same time, both premiums will now be payable.

## Call back increases

Call back will now be paid at double time ( effective June 13, 2023). Previously call back was paid at time and one half.

## Massage, Vision Care improved

Massage therapy will now be \$375 a year and there will be no per visit cap. Vision care will be increased to \$450 every 2 years.

These changes are effective June 13, 2023.



# Arbitrator hikes wages extra 6.25%

An arbitration board has awarded hospital staff represented by CUPE covered by the central hospital agreement an additional 3.75% for retroactive to September 29, 2021 and an additional 2.5% for retroactive to September 29, 2022. With inflation raging, this is an important improvement for our members.

These wage increases are in addition to increases of 1% and 1% which were awarded by the Sheehan arbitration board in 2022. That award also made small improvements to shift and weekend premiums, gave us mental health benefits of up to \$800 per year and made big gains in health & safety.

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*Susan Thornton, front right, chair of OCHU's RPN Committee*

**Most RPN wages will increase \$2.00 an hour**

RPNs whose maximum “job rate” was below \$33.18 as of September 28, 2021 will have their job rate increased to \$33.18 effective June 13, 2023 and then have general wage increases of 4.75% and 3.5% added on top. All other steps on the grid will be increased to maintain the existing differential between steps. As with all classifications, RPNs will also receive retroactivity for all hours paid of the additional 3.75% (effective September 29, 2021) and 2.5% (effective September 29, 2022) general wage increases above the 1% already received.

RPNs for whom the job rate is above \$33.18 (prior to any general wage increases including the 1% already received) will have their wage rate increased by the general wage increases in each year of the agreement.

The Sheehan board made it’s award under Bill 124, which limited wage and other compensation increases to no more than 1% a year.

In November a court struck down Bill 124 as unconstitutional. The union returned to bargaining in March and arbitrated these compensation issues in May.

The arbitration board that has hiked wages an extra 6.25% was chaired by William Kaplan. Joe Herbert represented the union on the 3 person panel.

The Ontario government is appealing the court decision on Bill 124.

That appeal will be heard June 20 and a decision is expected in September.

We may have to fight to keep the gains won today.

