

Message from Regional Manager**Jeff Richardson**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Well 2020 is almost in the history books, and it cannot come fast enough. It has been a very slow year and our working hours have decreased 70% from the previous years due to Covid-19. Many jobs that were scheduled were postponed until 2021 and the closure of Northern Pulp was another big blow to our local.

I am assuming that the first quarter of 2021 will be quiet, with not a lot of work going on. I believe with the vaccines on the horizon that work should pick up by late spring, early summer, and hopefully we will be back to normal by fall 2021. The borders should be opened back up and members may have the opportunity to travel across Canada for shutdowns, and or new construction.

It is my understanding that Peirdale Group will have a decision around June 2021 in regards to the construction of the LNG Goldboro operation. If this is a go, it will create 5,000 construction jobs as well as 200 permanent jobs once completed.

Wreck Cove in Cape Breton is planning a major overhaul to the amount of \$140 million dollars. This work should commence in the summer of 2021.

Contract negotiations were just completed in Cape Breton, and the Cape Breton Building Trades were successful in securing a new five (5) year agreement in both the commercial and industrial sectors. The agreement breaks down as follows:

- Year 1 - \$0.40 wage increase
- Year 2 - \$0.50 wage increase
- Year 3 - \$0.80 wage increase
- Year 4 - \$0.80 wage increase
- Year 5 - \$0.80 wage increase

This is a wage increase of \$3.30 per hour over the life of the contract, which is a decent wage increase for us.

Our Contract on the Mainland is due to expire in the spring of 2021, and I am hoping we can secure a new Collective Agreement that works for our members and contractors before our current agreement expires.

The Millwright defined benefit plan is in good shape considering what kind of year 2020 was and going forward will be at 107% funded.

I would like to remind everyone, that anyone coming to the Union Hall will have to adhere to the Covid-19 rules as set out by the Premier of Nova Scotia, and please make sure to wear a mask when entering.

In closing, from myself, Stacey and the Local 1178 Executives, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holidays, and a prosperous 2021.

Fraternally,
Jeff Richardson, Mainland NS Regional Manager

**UPCOMING STELLARTON TRAINING 2021**

Regular Classes Every Month:
The Wed and Thursday of every third FULL week of the month we will be providing NSCSA Fall Arrest (Wed) and NSCSA Confined Space (Thurs) Call 902 252-3553 to register.

We will be providing dates for Forklift/ Telehandler (PITO), and Mobile Elevated Work Platform MEWP on a regular basis once we get our machines inspected and certified for training use. (In progress)

The CMC will also be arranging in Stellarton on a to be determined basis:

- Emergency First Aid
- 8 Hr CMCNS Rigging Awareness and CMCNS Rigging Certification (mid 2021)
- Laser Alignment and other Millwright upgrade skills training as required

Be SURE your email and phone number are up to date with the Local Union and on your Training records so we may be able to contact you.

Contact your Local Union office or Training Centre to make sure you are signed up for our "TEXT TO TRAIN" feature, where the Local Union, ACRC, and the CMCNS can send you member notices on meetings, events, and training opportunities.



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Message from EST Deb Romero

The ACRC kicked off 2020 with a bang. Hours for January and February were higher than previous years, and we anticipated that this would be a ringer year for work for our members. In March, COVID became a reality for Atlantic Canadians and our world, and the world around, us changed dramatically. Project cancellations and slowdowns caused tremendous job losses for Brothers and Sisters across the regions. Some regions recovered by late summer while others still have not overcome the losses caused by the impact of COVID.

To say the very least, it has been an incredibly difficult year for most. As 2020 ends and we look to 2021, we are filled with optimism. Our provinces will begin to administer vaccines in the next few days. Work for 2021 is very promising with government pledging to invest in infrastructure to boost the flailing economy. Many projects that were put on hold due to the virus will move forward in 2021. This means jobs and plenty of them. – if we continue to control the spread of COVID.

Government restrictions on travel and the creation of the Atlantic Bubble gained worldwide recognition for our provinces as one of the safest places on earth to live. As the holiday season draws near, we must continue to practice safety. Many of our members are working away and travelling home for Christmas, or will have family members returning home for the holidays from other areas of the country and abroad that have had significantly more cases of COVID. It is important for all of us to follow the rules put in place by our various Premiers to ensure the safety of our families and all citizens of Atlantic Canada.

Christmas this year will look very different from past ones and we need to be creative as we find new ways to communicate with our families and friends. Take some extra time to think about who may be alone for the holidays and check in on them by reaching out to give them a call. During these difficult times, we all need to support each other. I would like to remind all members that we do have support available through our health plan if you or a family member are not coping well with the extra stress.

On behalf of the Executive Board, delegates, and staff of the Atlantic Canada Regional Council, I would like to extend a heartfelt wish for a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family.

EST Deb Romero



Welcome to Aspiria

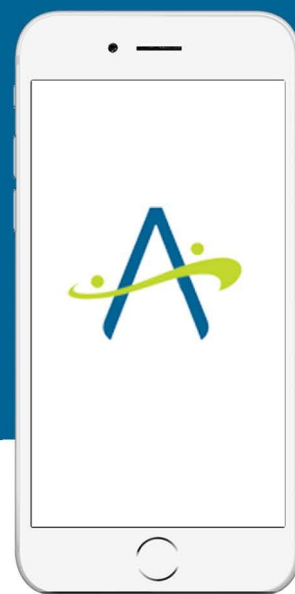


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