



UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen & Apprentices of the
PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING
Industry of the United States and Canada
Local Union 170 – Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CFL

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May 15, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I hope you and your families are remaining healthy as we start to emerge from some of the pandemic restrictions we have been living under for just over two months. I am very pleased to report that so far, we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 on any of our jobsites and hope this will continue. This is a big relief to all of us and a great testament to our membership who have diligently followed safety protocols on the jobsite; ensuring each other's safety.

A reminder that our **Members Assistance Line** is available for any member needing any help during this time. We have volunteers available to assist with shopping errands, transportation etc. Please call 778-658-0819 and we will connect you with one of our member volunteers.

I encourage you to visit our website where you will find all our COVID-19 communications along with COVID-19 resources and information. Some updates to pass along since our last letter to the membership:

Wage Increase May 1, 2020 – Standard ICI, CASA, Pipe Fab Shop

Members working under the Standard ICI, CASA and Pipe Fab Shop Agreements all had negotiated increases which came into effect May 1, 2020. All increases were put towards wages. Wage grids for these agreements are available in the Special Messages section of the Member's database.

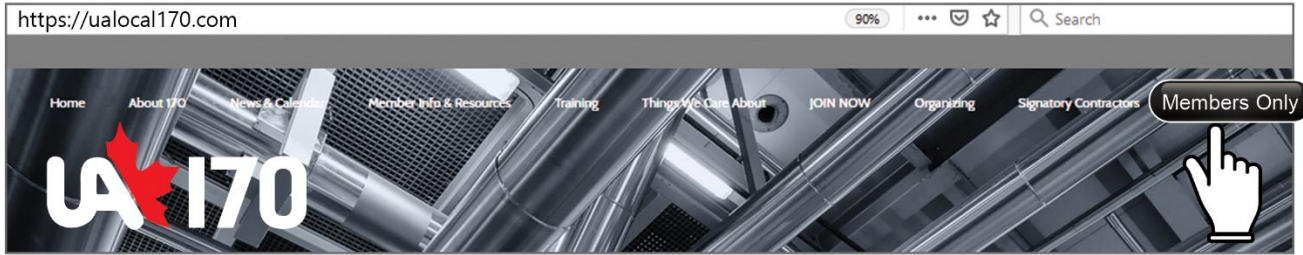
Service & Maintenance Negotiations

Last month we had proposed a Letter of Understanding to CLR to extend the negotiations timeline due to COVID, and to agree to an increase equivalent to the Standard Commercial agreement for our members working Service and Maintenance. They did not agree, so a Notice to Bargain has been sent and we have dates scheduled for next week.

AGM & Area Meetings

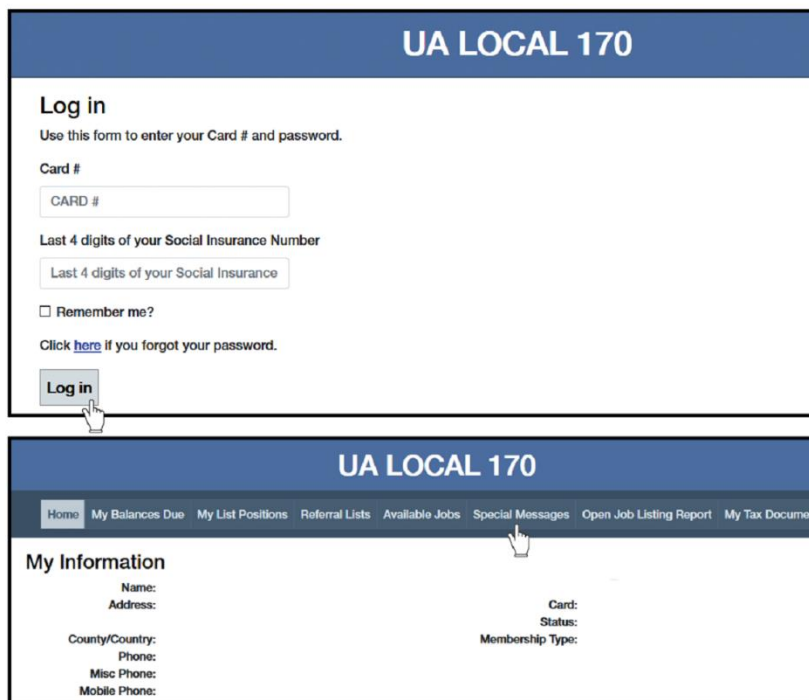
We traditionally hold our Annual General Meeting and Area Meetings during the month of May. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and following the directive of the UA, we have postponed all our face to face meetings until further notice. We are however, hoping to be able to schedule the AGM as soon as possible, as provincial restrictions are being lifted. If we are still restricted to gatherings of less than 50, we may have a series of AGM meetings in Vancouver (by registration) so that all who would like to attend are able to. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, we have posted the Notices of Motion that will be voted on at the AGM and Area Meetings in the Special Messages section of the Member's database.

To access the member's database, you will need your UA Card Number and the last 4 digits of your Social Insurance Number.



ENTER YOUR UA CARD NO. AND PASSWORD AND LOG IN.

If you haven't ever changed your password – the default is the last 4 digits of your social insurance number.

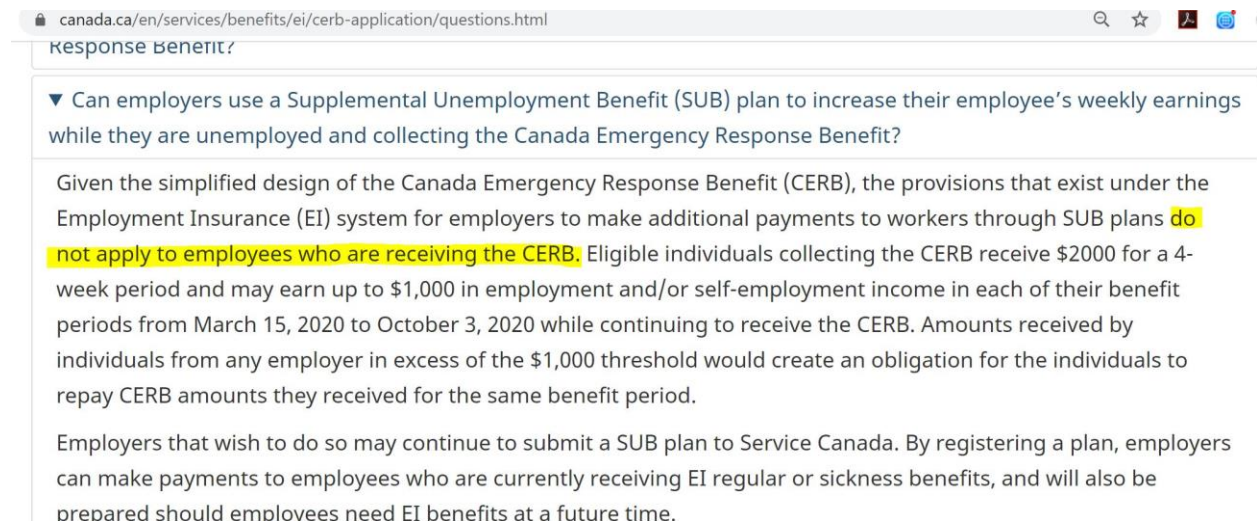


LinkedIn Learning

UA Canada has negotiated a reduced cost (50% savings) for members to access LinkedIn Learning resources. Please see the attached [LinkedIn Learning brochure](#). Several online course topics are available including: supervision, construction technology, business education, computer skills, communications programs, and thousands of other topics that can be beneficial to the membership for personal and practical development of their skills. The LinkedIn Learning purchase form is setup and available to members when they login at <https://login.nausc.ca>. Members will need their UA Card number and the last three digits of their SIN number to get access to this special rate for training courses.

SUB and CERB

In March 2020, the SUB Fund trustees voted unanimously to increase the SUB plan benefit from \$100 to \$125 per week for benefit periods ending between April 1 to May 26 in order to offer additional assistance to members during this pandemic. Unfortunately, the federal government moved everyone who applied for EI Regular and Sick benefits (if unemployed after March 15, 2020) to the newly created CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit). Under current legislation, the SUB plan is unable to top up CERB benefits. We have lobbied our local MP Carla Qualtrough, but as of today, we are still not legally able to top up CERB benefits. Excerpt from the CRA website:



canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html

response benefit?

▼ Can employers use a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) plan to increase their employee's weekly earnings while they are unemployed and collecting the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

Given the simplified design of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the provisions that exist under the Employment Insurance (EI) system for employers to make additional payments to workers through SUB plans **do not apply to employees who are receiving the CERB**. Eligible individuals collecting the CERB receive \$2000 for a 4-week period and may earn up to \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income in each of their benefit periods from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020 while continuing to receive the CERB. Amounts received by individuals from any employer in excess of the \$1,000 threshold would create an obligation for the individuals to repay CERB amounts they received for the same benefit period.

Employers that wish to do so may continue to submit a SUB plan to Service Canada. By registering a plan, employers can make payments to employees who are currently receiving EI regular or sickness benefits, and will also be prepared should employees need EI benefits at a future time.

I have submitted a letter to the Administrator of the Health/Welfare Plan to ask that our legal counsel investigate any legal workaround ([see attached letter](#)) and we will continue to follow up with our MP to request an amendment to legislation to allow the SUB plan to top up CERB benefits.

UA Members Assistance Plan (MAP)



Let us help

Access your Member Assistance Program (MAP) 24/7 by phone, web or mobile app.

1.833.778.2627 (UAMAP)
TTY: 1.877.338.0275
workhealthlife.com

Download My EAP app now at your device app store or scan the QR code.

It is important during these stressful times we take care of our physical as well as our mental health. If you or your family members need assistance with any work, health or life concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to the UA Member Assistance Plan (MAP) by phone, web or through the mobile app. Local 170 members are able to access at anytime, at no charge, confidential assistance. I have attached the Member Assistance Program [brochure](#) which has more

information. Contact them by phone at 1-833-778-2627, visit their website at workhealthlife.com, or download their app by searching for "My EAP" in your App store.

Dues Relief for Members

As mentioned in previous newsletters, members who are experiencing reduced hours due to COVID-19 will be granted dues relief. Members who worked less than 40 hours in the month of March will be given credit for one month's counter dues. Due to the normal lag in receiving hours

information from contractors, we have begun the process this week of reviewing March hours data and processing dues waivers. If you have been given credit for one month's dues you will receive a letter in the mail in the next few weeks which will detail the credit and your updated paid through date. The dues waiver has been extended for another month by General President McManus so we will be repeating this process again next month; ie reviewing April 2020 hours and giving all members with less than 40 hours in April an additional credit for one month's dues.

I wish you and your families a safe long weekend. While some of the restrictions will be easing next week, please continue to follow the recommendations of our health officers by staying close to home and avoiding non-essential travel this long weekend.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.D. Al Phillips', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

A.D. Al Phillips, RSE
Business Manager & Financial Secretary