



United Nurses of Alberta Local 115 Foothills Medical Centre & Satellites

April 2006
Issue 26

Southern Alberta Regional Office, Local 115, Suite 300, 1422 Kensington Road NW, Calgary AB T2N 3P9.
Web site: <http://local115.una.ab.ca> **Email:** msenkow@una.ab.ca **Phone number:** (403) 670-9960



Message from the President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the President	1
Nursing Week May 8-14, 2006	1
Prescription Plan Appeals	2
Local 115 Nursing Tea & Meeting	2
Citizen Action Team	2
LOA & Pension Plan / LPN Charged	3
Spotlight: Return to Work/Duty to Accommodate	4
2006 AGM Delegate Nomination Form	5
Local 115 Contacts	6

Welcome Spring! It is wonderful to hear the birds of Spring and see the flowers coming up. I hope this is the start of a great Spring and Summer for everyone.

I would like to formally invite you to the Nursing Tea we will be holding on May 8th afternoon for Nurses Week. Come and celebrate your profession.

As the viruses have been circulating and nurses become sick it is important to reinforce to all, that if you get sick and it is possibly caused by something you are exposed to while at work.

Please see your medical Dr. and fill out WCB forms. You are entitled to WCB for work related illnesses and the application must be filled out with in 2 years of the exposure/accident.

Take care,

Michelle Senkow - RN, BScN
President - UNA-Local 115



National Nursing Week May 8 to May 14, 2006

Nursing week is a time to celebrate the achievements of registered nurses and the nursing profession in Alberta. Nurses play a vital role in promoting the health and wellness of Canadians. Members of our profession are advocates for healthy personal choices and improved community well-being. This year's theme for National Nursing Week, **Nursing: Promoting Healthy Choices for Healthy Living**, underlines this contribution to public health and primary health care. From May 8 through 14, you can recognize and honor the contributions nurses make to the health system and in improving population health.

Important Information on Health and Prescription Benefit plans

APRIL 30 DEADLINE FOR FILING DENIED DRUG BENEFIT CLAIMS



Appealing prescription claims denied between June 1, 2001 and February 1, 2006 Appeals must be filed by April 30, 2006

Since 2001 the provincial Collective Agreement requires coverage for all prescribed medication. ("Eighty percent (80%) direct payment provision for all physician or dentist prescribed medication – Article 21.01 (ii)). There have been a number of disputes and denials of coverage.

The Joint Committee of UNA and HBA Services representatives recently set up a process to resolve prescription claims that have been denied.

Nurses who have had a prescription claim denied between June 1, 2001 and Feb. 1, 2006 should fill in and submit a claim form and documentation to UNA. The form is available on the UNA website, www.una.ab.ca. ❖



Local 115 – General Meeting & Nursing Tea



Date: May 8, 2006

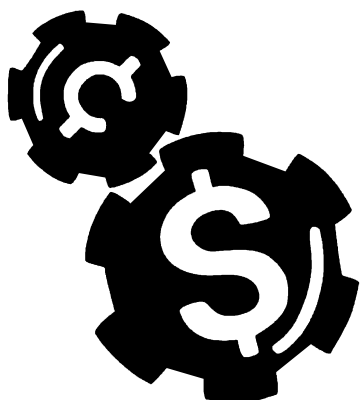
Nursing Tea: 1300 – 1700
Place: Outside of Coombs Theatre, FMC

Meeting Time: 1530 – 1700
Place: Coombs Theatre.



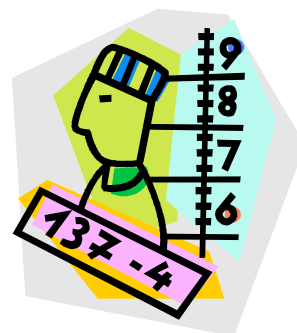
CITIZEN ACTION TEAM

Join the CAT in your constituency
Local action to Keep Medicare Public
Contact Coordinator 1-888-633-1311
petition@keepmedicarepublic.ca



LOA and your pension

Nurses in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) who take an unpaid leave of absence need to have an opportunity to “buy back” the pension contributions they missed. Employers must provide a statement of missed LAPP contributions by March of the following year. Employees then have until April 30 to give their employer written notice that they want to make up the missed pension contributions. The actual arrangement for payment is then made after the amounts are calculated by the pension plan. For the purchase of the first 12 months of service, the employer will have to also make their contribution to the pension. For the second to fifth years the Employee would have to pay the Employee and the Employer’s contribution rates. Making up missed LAPP contributions is valuable, because, missed pension time will either postpone retirement or reduces the pension. ❖



LPN charged in drugging case in Grande Prairie

RCMP finally laid over 50 charges against LPN Sarah Christine Bowes in the bizarre case of the drugging of employees at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie. After several bouts of illnesses the nurses on one unit insisted on air quality tests last year. That turned up nothing, but blood tests showed benzodiazepine drugs. A loaded syringe was found tucked away and foods in staff fridges were found to be tampered with. The LPN’s former employer says the woman claimed to be the victim of a similar crime while working in Ontario. An official at a nursing home east of Toronto says Sarah Christine Bowes was among three nurses who told police in late 2002 their sodas had been spiked with medication.

Nurstoons

by Carl Elbing



www.nurtoon.com

Return to Work & Duty to Accommodate

Protect your rights when returning to work after an extended absence

***Union must be consulted in
all cases of return to work
and duty to accommodate***

Nurses who are returning to work after an extended absence have the right to union representation. For nurses who have medical restrictions on the work they can do and are being accommodated in a position that matches their abilities, their union must be involved to ensure fair and safe treatment.

The Collective Agreement requires union consultation in returning to work after a Long-Term Disability or Workers' Compensation absence.

If you are coming back after an extended absence, be sure to contact your Local to have union representation in the process.

Articles 20.04 and 19.07 (a) (iii) In reinstating an Employee under (ii), the Employer will consult with the Employee and the Union over possible suitable placements and reinstate the Employee to a site suitable to the Employee if possible. If that is not possible, the Employee will be reinstated to their home site if possible. If the foregoing options are not possible, the Employee will be reinstated to the closest possible site to that Employee's home site.

January 2006

SPOTLIGHT on your UNA contract

UNA • CEP • Spotlight return to work • 01-06



**Questions?
Contact your United Nurses of Alberta Representative:**

• Provincial Office: (780) 425-1025 or 1 800 252-9394 • Southern Alberta Regional Office: (403) 237-2377 or 1 800 661-1802 • www.una.ab.ca •





United Nurses of Alberta

Local # 115 Delegate Nomination Form

I wish to let my name stand as a voting delegate for the United Nurses of Alberta Annual General Meeting on Oct 24, 25, 26, 2006.

Name: (Please Print) _____

Home telephone #: _____

Unit: _____ UNA ID #: _____

Abutting shift(s): Abutting shifts must be pre-approved by the Provincial Treasurer. Please indicate the date(s). **October 23/06 evenings/nights and October 26/06 evenings/nights.**

October 23/06 _____

October 26/06 _____

(Optional) Would like to room with: _____

Signature of Nominee: _____

Signature of 1st member in good standing: _____

Name (Please Print) _____ UNA ID #: _____

Signature of 2nd member in good standing: _____

Name (Please Print) _____ UNA ID#: _____

PS: Please remit this form to a Local #115 Executive Member, drop in Local 115 mailbox, fax to office at 263-2908 or mail to the office. Members will be elected at the local meeting on May 8, 2006. Call 670-9960 for info.



United Nurses of Alberta

Local 115

Foothills Medical Centre & Satellites

Contact Information

Executive Members

President

Michelle Senkow: msenkow@una.ab.ca

1st.Vice.President

Bruce Chatterton: bchatterton@una.ab.ca

2nd.Vice.President

Don Richardson: drichardson@una.ab.ca

Treasurer

Ross Pambrun: rpambrun@una.ab.ca

Secretary

Diane Mak-Kaplan: dmak-kaplan@una.ab.ca

Grievance Committee

Don Richardson: drichardson@una.ab.ca

Michelle Senkow: msenkow@una.ab.ca

Amy Li: ali@una.ab.ca

Barb Lauzon: blauzon@una.ab.ca

Colleen Wagner: cwagner@una.ab.ca

Mary-Jane Szigety: mjszigety@una.ab.ca

OH & S Committee

Diane Mak-Kaplan: dmak-kaplan@una.ab.ca

Michelle Senkow: msenkow@una.ab.ca

Dianne Schwab: dschwab@una.ab.ca

Susan Mayer

PRC Committee

Michelle Senkow: msenkow@una.ab.ca

Carrie McDonagh: cmcdonagh@una.ab.ca

Charlotte Parkinson: cparkinson@una.ab.ca

Heather McCulloch: hmcculloch@una.ab.ca

Patricia Pilling: ppilling@una.ab.ca

Membership Secretary

Diane Mak-Kaplan: dmak-kaplan@una.ab.ca

Newsletter Committee

Al Perreault: aperreault@una.ab.ca

Southern Alberta Regional Office (SARO)

Suite 300, 1422 Kensington Road, NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 3P9

Mon – Fri: 8:30am to 4:30pm (Sat, Sun, Holidays: Closed)

Phone: (403) 670-9960, Fax: (403) 270-5749

Email the President: msenkow@una.ab.ca

Local 115 Web Site: <http://local115.una.ab.ca>