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April 25, 2023

Dear Members,

This Earth Day we would like to thank all of you for your support of APBC and BCEHS environmental and climate action initiatives. Since the implementation of the first APBC Environment and Climate Change Committee (ECCC) in 2018, we have accomplished a lot:

- Successfully lobbied for BCEHS to sign the West Coast Electric Vehicle Fleets Pledge
- Successfully lobbied for BCEHS to implement Electric Vehicle (EV) Trials for Personal Response Units, Supervisor Units, Ambulance Units and Manager Use.
- The first labour organization to recognize an employee's right to operate a clean energy vehicle. This right has subsequently been recognized by CUPE BC — an organization representing over 100,000 workers.
- The creation of a joint BCEHS\APBC Decarbonization Committee dedicated to developing, promoting, and implementing strategies and initiatives for the reduction of Green House Gas' (GHG) emissions produced by BCEHS.
- The formal recognition of Earth Month and Earth Day at BCEHS

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our membership and are something we should all be proud of.

Many of you have likely seen communications from the joint BCEHS\APBC Decarbonization Committee regarding idling reduction efforts at BCEHS. The idling reduction survey completed by this committee suggests there is a significant desire from our membership to see BCEHS reduce its GHG emissions. We thank all of those who thoughtfully filled out the survey. In reading the comments, it is evident that this is an important subject for our membership and that there are numerous obstacles to fully realizing the potential of an idling reduction strategy. Some of these obstacles will require the employer to come to the table with solutions that will assist our membership in idling reduction. Know that the ECCC is fighting for these solutions to be brought forth in a timely manner, and we greatly appreciate all your efforts to safely reduce your idling in the meantime. This will show the employer that we are willing to continue to lead on this file, and it will also support a respectful culture of sustainability at BCEHS.

The reality of the climate emergency is more dire than ever, but this does not mean we should give up. Every act of climate action carried out now has the potential to reduce suffering for future generations. And there are reasons to be hopeful. As more and more people are experiencing the impacts of the climate crisis in the form of extreme weather events, our collective desire for climate action is increasing. The economic benefits of clean energy are becoming too obvious to ignore. And in the

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past year, both the Canadian and US governments have made landmark investments in establishing a clean energy economy.

Once again, thank you for all that you do every day caring for the communities of BC and your continued support of improving sustainability at CUPE 873 and BCEHS.

Happy Earth Day.

Sincerely,

David Hollingworth – Chair

Brandon Baillie

Ryan Howard

Environment and Climate Change Committee

Ambulance Paramedics of BC

CUPE Local 873

DH/sd/MoveUp

