

The Benefits committee met for the first time since Kyle Morrison was elected as Benefits officer at the last GMM.. The Union remains in a good position regarding its funds and benefits. The following issues were addressed during the meeting:

**Motion moved by Max Lightstone:**

That the Benefits Officer, Treasurer, and Benefits Committee consider the feasibility of establishing a fund for Unit 1, Group B members who are applying to Graduate studies in order to defray the expenses of those applications, and provide a recommendation to the General Membership no later than the first GMM in April 2021.”

After deliberations it was decided that this was not feasible due concerns that this would be construed as due repayment to members. In addition the funds would come from the Locals operating budget which would not be allowed under the current collective agreement. It was recommended by the committee that this be taken up during the next round of bargaining should this be an issue supported by the general membership.

In addition to the committee approved the following motions:

1. That the Local transfers 20k to U2 HCSA. This was done in accordance with the recommendations made by Prosure and administrative staff..
2. That the Local expand the current entitlement funds for U2 from 70% to 80% and keep the maximum in eligible expenses at \$500.

During the last round of bargaining U2 secured additional HCSA funds increasing the amount to \$93,000/yr from \$68,000/yr. Previously members were able to receive reimbursement of only 70% from a maximum of \$500 for a total of \$350 per academic year. The 10% increase will allow members to be reimbursed for a total of \$400 from the maximum \$500 per academic year. This new amount will be back-dated to Sept 1, 2020.

The next meeting scheduled for March will focus on increasing benefit awareness and communication to our membership. The committee welcomes any suggestions on how to make members aware of the benefits available to them and encourages members to contact [Benefits@cupe3906.org](mailto:Benefits@cupe3906.org) with any questions or ideas. Anyone interested in joining the committee should also contact [Benefits@cupe3906.org](mailto:Benefits@cupe3906.org). I look forward to continuing to work as your new

Benefits Officer.  
In solidarity  
Kyle Morrison.