



TOWN OF PLACENTIA NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Placentia, August 28, 2019

A Fair and Reasonable Collective Agreement Reached between the Town of Placentia and CUPE, Local 1761

The Council of the Town Placentia is pleased that a fair and reasonable Collective Agreement has been reached with its valued employees represented by CUPE Local 1761. Council anticipated this would be a difficult round of bargaining and is pleased that a resolution to the labour dispute has been reached.

The Council of Placentia recognized during the 2017 election that one of its first challenges was to negotiate a new Collective Agreement with its unionized employees. Council has reached this Collective Agreement after 16 months of bargaining.

Early in its mandate, Council decided that the previous significant increases of 4% to 5% per year provided during the previous contracts was not financially sustainable for the residents of Placentia.

In the newly negotiated contract, there are no wage increases in years one (1) and two (2). One-time bonuses will be paid for these years but will not add to hourly wages paid to employees and no additional cost will be carried forward into future years.

Year three (3), commencing on April 1, 2020, will provide a thirty (30) cent per hour increase.

Year four (4), commencing on April 1, 2021, will provide a forty (40) cent per hour increase.

The annual additional cost in the last year (2017) of the previous three year contract totalled \$214,420. The annual cost of the last year of the current four contracts (2022) only totals \$21,214. During this fiscally challenging time, this represents fair and reasonable compensation to be paid by the Town to its employees.

Other changes were also achieved in the current agreement including a new year-round shift system which will provide seven (7) days a week coverage, instead of the current five (5) day work schedule. This schedule will provide significant savings in over-time wages. In addition, there is an extended period for winter work and other benefits to effectively minimize costs to the taxpayers of the Town on an ongoing basis.

Council is satisfied with this agreement and believes it is the best deal possible and is in the best interest of its workers and the residents of the Town of Placentia.

Council expresses their appreciation to management for their efforts to provide service and to all residents for their support and understanding during the labour dispute.

Council will be meeting tomorrow to work out a return to work protocol with normal work activities expected to resume on Friday, August 30, 2019.

For more information contact:

Bernard Power, Mayor
Town of Placentia
(709) 213-2135