

## ATLANTIC CANADA HEALTH CARE COALITION SOCIETY 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Atlantic Canada Health Care Coalition Society's (ACHCCS) Executive Director, Fern Tardif, is pleased to announce that the Coalition is celebrating its 10-year anniversary as a non-profit organization that helps union members and their families in Atlantic Canada save money.

The ACHCCS was incorporated in July 2008 with four founding local unions representing 2000 members. Today, the Coalition has 70 union groups, made up of over 800 local unions, representing over 250,000 members and their families in Atlantic Canada.

Coalition members are spread across many different sectors and industries and are represented by a variety of groups in Atlantic Canada including many of the building trades unions, locals from CUPE, PSAC, CUPW, USW, IBEW, UFCW, UNIFOR, IATSE, ATU, IAMAW, ILA, as well as the Federal Government Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, Atlantic Police Association, Dartmouth Fire Veterans Association, NSUPE, PEIUPSE, NSGEU, NSGREASE SEIU, Halifax Typographical Union, among others.

As the Coalition has grown, so too has its purchasing power. Greater purchasing power has given ACHCCS the ability to offer members and their families access to significant discounts and value-added programs through agreements with a variety of benefit providers. For example, MHSCSI provides coverage starting at \$3.00 per prescription processed through MHSCSI's preferred provider network, which includes Lawtons Drugs, Sobeys, Foodland, Safeway, Thrifty Foods, IGA, and FreshCo pharmacies. Members also receive a Lawtons Client Group Partner Discount Card that helps save 5% to 40% on front store retail purchases.

Member benefits also include preferred rates on auto and home insurance through The Co-operators group insurance program, discounts on hearing aids and related professional services with Connect Hearing, savings on prescription drugs that members may need purchase while traveling in the U.S. through Optum Rx, and great fleet pricing when buying a new Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM, and FIAT vehicles offered by FIAT Chrysler Automobiles (FCA).

Member unions and non-profit associations are eligible for savings on custom coverage and risk management advice with The Co-operators' Community Guard program.

The ACHCCS is a part of the National Labor Alliance of Health Care Coalition (NLA) which has over 10 million members throughout the US and Canada. This allows the ACHCCS to access



*Executive Director* Fern Tardif

additional discount benefit programs through the purchasing power of the NLA.

The Coalition continues to look for quality programs and value-added products at reduced costs for members and their families. While various companies have offered products to the Coalition, the discount, credibility, and value of the program are always considered first, as they are the key determining factors on whether the Coalition will approve and promote the program to their members.

After 10 years, the Coalition can easily go back and show the success of its programs to any unions or associations who may wish to join. This has been very helpful and has led to a continuous increase in membership over the last number of years. The one-time cost for an organization to join the Coalition is an initiation fee of just \$50.00. Each member group has a representative to the Coalition's Board of Directors who attends an annual general meeting.

Any unions or associations in Atlantic Canada that wish to join the Coalition so their members can access savings and programs, or providers that would like to work with the Coalition to promote their products, can contact ACHCCS Executive Director, Fern Tardif at [ferntardif@eastlink.ca](mailto:ferntardif@eastlink.ca).

*For more information, please visit the Coalition's website: [www.achccs.ca](http://www.achccs.ca).*