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***News Release***

**April 29, 2021**

**Health Care Foundation and NAPE Partner to Support Higher Education for Those Living with Mental Illness**

**St. John’s, NL –** The Health Care Foundation announced today a partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees (NAPE) to provide educational opportunities to adults living with a mental illness and/or addiction through the Moving Lives Forward Scholorship Program.

“The Health Care Foundation is proud to partner with NAPE to offer the Moving Lives Forward Scholarship Program,” said Paul Snow, President and CEO of the Health Care Foundation. “Our hope is that by improving access to education for those living with the extra challenge of navigating a mental health issue, we can aid them in finding meaningful employment and reach their personal goals.”

Thanks to the support of NAPE, Moving Lives Forward provides $45,000 worth of scholarships annually to individuals who have received services through Mental Health and Addictions Programs throughout the province. Scholarships are valued up to $1,500 each per recipient, per semester, and are allocated for tuition, fees and books/materials.

“Our Union has been at the forefront of efforts to destigmatize and address mental health issues in workplaces and communities; this is another way for us to provide tangible support for those who need it,” said Jerry Earle, President of NAPE.

“Sitting on the Moving Lives Forward scholarship committee has really driven home how important this financial support is,” said Trevor King, Secretary-Treasurer of NAPE. “We are very proud to be part of this initiative which has a lifechanging impact for those experiencing mental illness and/or addiction.”

Applications for Moving Lives Forward are accepted three times a year for fall, winter and spring/summer semesters. Applications are reviewed by a committee of mental health and addictions clinicians and community partners to evaluate need and ensure that the financial support will help the recipient reach their personal goals.

To learn more about Moving Lives Forward, and for application information and guidelines, please visit [www.healthcarefoundation.ca](http://www.healthcarefoundation.ca).

**About the Health Care Foundation**

The Health Care Foundation is committed to raising and stewarding funds for the advancement and enhancement medical equipment, patient comfort and care, research and education within adult hospitals and facilities serving the greater St. John’s region. Through its fundraising initiatives, the Health Care Foundation assists Eastern Health in providing specialized tertiary health services for the entire province.

**About NAPE**

NAPE is the largest union in Newfoundland and Labrador, uniting and representing over 25,000 public and private sector workers across the province.

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