



Timelines extended for Lower Mainland Pharmacy Tech bridging

The HEU and the Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services have agreed to extend the timelines of the Pharmacy Tech conversion agreement.

Members now have until November 2014 to complete their bridging courses under the agreement. The previous deadline was set for November 2013. This timeline extension applies to members with or without a conditional conversion opportunity (CCO).

The agreement assists and supports members who want to pursue the new regulated designation. Members in Pharmacy who complete their bridging and register with the College of Pharmacists within the newly extended timeline will become Regulated Pharmacy Technicians. They will keep their existing position without displacement or reposting, and they will receive the new higher rate of pay (grid 32).

In the time since the HEU and the employer agreed to the conversion process, about 100 (or 1 in 4) Pharmacy members across the Lower Mainland have completed the bridging and have converted. Many more are scheduled to write their final exam this year. It is important for HEU members to seriously consider the bridging courses.

The union is looking to establish similar extensions, where appropriate, for Pharmacy Technicians elsewhere in the province.

The FBA Education Fund was renewed in the most recent round of bargaining, and **will be open for member applications shortly**. This union fund has supported Pharmacy Techs interested in pursuing the regulated title. Members can receive up to \$2400 towards their bridging.

Please check the webpage regularly for details on the FBA Education Fund application process and timelines. <http://www.heu.org/education/fba-education-fund>

If you have questions about any aspect of the Pharmacy Tech conversion agreement and options please contact your steward.

March 11, 2013

