

WHAT ABOUT MARCH BREAK?

Who's working? What you need to know.

GENERAL SECTOR

All APPA members working in the General Sector (administrative, technical and para-technical) including members on wage-slip are entitled to work during March Break (**February 28th to March 4th, 2022**), as it is considered a regular workweek. Members choosing to take time off may use their overtime compensation, PLA days, or vacation days during this period, provided they have made prior arrangements with their immediate supervisor.

DAYCARE & SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTORS

For Daycare and Special Education personnel, chapter 5-6.02 of the S-18 Collective Agreement stipulates that the Board may impose that the employees use their vacation days to cover this period. The following classes of employment affected are:

- Day Care Technicians
- Day Care Educators
- Special Education Technicians
- Attendant for Handicapped Students
- Oral Interpreters



Photo by [Brendan Beale](#) on [Unsplash](#)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th is International Women's Day. It's a global day to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It's also a time to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work remaining to be done.

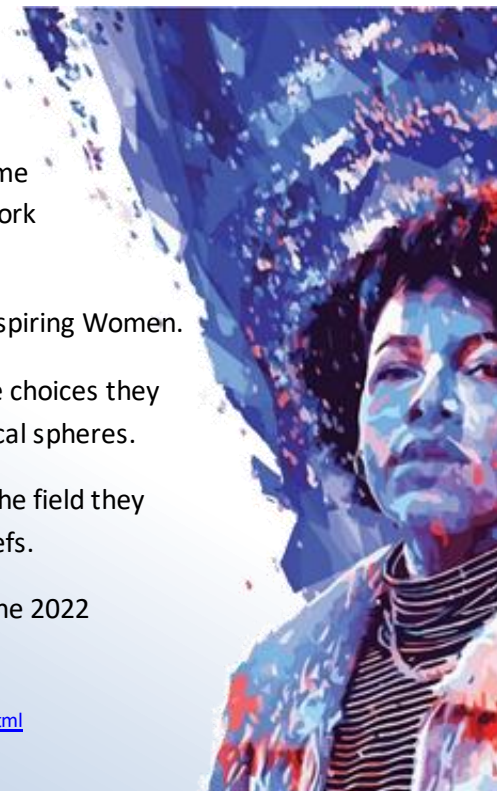
The government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day 2022 is Women Inspiring Women.

It celebrates all the women and girls who inspire us by demonstrating leadership in the choices they make in their day-to-day lives to contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and political spheres.

In Canada, unlike in many other countries, women are free to study and be leaders in the field they choose, care and provide for their family, express who they are, and fight for their beliefs.

Visit the [Government of Canada's website](#) for ways to get involved, and to download the 2022 Digital Toolkit. ■

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/international-womens-day/2022-theme.html>



PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT COURSES

It's your benefit, why not use it?

The professional improvement program provides funding to regular full-time or part-time employees to help offset the tuition costs of work-related education and training. Below is a brief outline of what is eligible for reimbursement. More information can be found in the PIC Booklet by clicking [here](#) or on the [APPA website](#) under Our Members.

1 CREDIT COURSES

University or college studies leading to a diploma or a certificate recognized by the Ministère de l'Éducation et Enseignement supérieur (MEES).

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT
Full Time Student	Tuition / Compulsory Fees	\$1500.00 (annually)
Part Time Student	Tuition / Compulsory Fees	\$970.00 (annually)

2 RETRAINING AND UPGRADING

Office systems technology, language skills, training courses and the cost of the process for a recognition of acquired competencies. First-aid certification including chapter 10 employees whose classifications require it.

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT
Non-Credit Courses	Course / Tuition Fees	\$400.00 (annually)
RAC	Evaluation / Course / Tuition Fees	\$500.00 (annually)
First-Aid Certification	Course / Instructor Fees	\$100.00 (every 3 years)

3 CONVENTIONS AND SEMINARS

Seminars or conventions from outside organizations and in exceptional cases, requests to attend conventions held outside Quebec. Organized professional improvement for groups based on their specific needs (made-to-measure).

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT
Individual	Registration / Convention Fees	\$200.00 + some expenses (2x annually) *
Group	Participation / Instructor Fees	\$600.00 (annually per department /service)

*SEE PIC BOOKLET FOR DETAILS

SELF-FINANCED LEAVES

Taking a sabbatical is not just for teachers!

To help accelerate your path to a diploma or any other life-enriching experience while reducing the strain on your budget, consider self-financing your leave of absence.

This plan allows an employee to pay for their own leave by reducing their salary over a period of 2 to 5 years. In this way, the employee can benefit from continuous income during their leave of absence.

Only regular full-time, part-time or surplus employees are eligible for this benefit. More information on Self-Financed Leaves can be found in chapter 5-11.00 the S-18 Collective Agreement.

The application deadline is March 1st of every year. ■

