



## **Bargaining Update, April 13, 2021**

### **Bargaining Commences as Council Files Compliant with Labour Board**

Healthcare bargaining commences with the exchange of proposals on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Employers, NSHA and IWK, and the Health Care Council of Unions then have eight bargaining dates scheduled between now and May 13. This marks the first step in securing a new collective agreement. Your previous agreement expired November 1, 2020.

Over the past few months, your CUPE bargaining committee members along with committee members from Unifor and NSGEU have been hard at work drafting bargaining proposals. In the meantime, the Unions have worked to establish Essential Services staffing agreements with both the IWK and NSHA. As per legislation passed by the provincial government in 2014, an essential service staffing plan must be in place before any job action can be taken in a workplace.

The IWK and the Council of Health Care Unions bargained an essential services agreement during the last round of bargaining in 2018. The IWK and the Council agreed to maintain that plan for this round of bargaining meaning the essential service plan at the IWK is essentially complete.

The NSHA, however, has not provided any plan, and has not met with the Unions to discuss this matter since we began formally requesting a plan in early February.

Because of this, the Council of Health Care Unions has filed an application with the Labour Board, asking them to intervene and assist the NSHA and Council in concluding an essential services agreement.

We are hosting a Town Hall call on the telephone this upcoming Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to discuss bargaining proposals. We will keep you updated on the Labour Board complaint, as well.

Please forward any questions you may have to your CUPE Area VP.