



Member Update

Friday, July 2, 2021

*Province-wide health care strike vote for **Healthcare Bargaining Unit** begins Monday.*

On Wednesday, bargaining talks broke down between the Health Care Council of Unions, employers (NSHA and IWK) and the Province, after the Province and the employers failed to respond to a comprehensive settlement proposed by the unions.

The Health Care Council of Unions, which includes more than 7,500 members across Nova Scotia – including 2,500 CUPE members – must now begin a province-wide health care strike vote on Monday, July 5, to demonstrate members will back their committee's proposals.

On the third day of conciliation (Wednesday, June 30), the Province and the employers tabled a comprehensive settlement that included a wage offer, which was far less than wage settlements provided recently to other public sector workers, such as crown attorneys and paramedics with the IUOE.

The unions tabled a counter offer just before 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The Province and the employers announced an hour later they would not have any further responses that day and did not know when or how they would respond in the future. That effectively ended conciliation and left the unions with no choice but to pursue a strike vote.

It is critically important that you participate in this strike vote. Your bargaining committee needs your support to advance their ability to negotiate a fair deal.

It is important to note that when the Province and the employers walked away from the table on Wednesday, they said they may have a response to the unions' counter proposal in the coming days. When that happens, the unions will inform members immediately. If the response from the Province and the employers is fair and reasonable, the unions will bring it to the membership for a ratification vote.

Wages for many health care workers in have fallen below where they should be, in comparison to other provinces. This is in large part due to seven years of austerity by the NS Liberal government. These wage disparities will only make staff shortages worse in Nova Scotia.

CUPE 8920 will hold a town hall call for members of the Healthcare Bargaining Unit on Monday, July 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Strike votes will begin the morning of Tuesday, July 6.