

## **Nursing Bargaining Update: Parties Met, Scheduling Future Dates**

Good Morning,

The elected Nova Scotia Council of Nursing Unions negotiating team met with your Employers to begin the bargaining process. The Council is comprised of representatives from four healthcare unions (NSNU, NSGEU, CUPE, and Unifor).

The representatives met for two full days on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The Unions have provided the Employer with a list of 28 proposed dates for bargaining between February and June, during which time we expect to make significant progress. We are awaiting the Employers' response to our proposed dates.

We would like to acknowledge that many nurses are feeling frustrated by the delays in bargaining, as well as the extremely stressful working conditions you are currently experiencing. Your representatives on the Council are doing their best to expedite the bargaining process and conclude a new collective agreement that will address members' concerns about compensation and workload.

The *Health Authorities Act*, passed by the provincial government in 2014, requires all nurses employed at Nova Scotia Health (NSH) and IWK to bargain together in a Council of Nursing Unions. Under the four Council constitutions, one union appoints the Chief Negotiator for each Council. The NSNU appoints the Chief Negotiator for the Nursing Council and has the majority of bargaining committee members. NSGEU appoints the Deputy Chief Negotiator and holds the second largest number of seats on the committee.

We appreciate your patience as we progress in this round of negotiations. If you have questions or concerns about the bargaining process, please contact your Area VP.