CAMPAIGNER - Acute Care Nurses Vote to Accept New Agreement

July 27, 2023

Dear CUPE Acute Care Member,

Acute care nurses represented by the NSNU, NSGEU, CUPE, and Unifor have voted in favour of a five-year contract that will see historic improvements in wages, premiums, occupational health and safety, and work-life balance.

Voting on the agreement took place from July 21st until noon today. Approximately 87.49% of those who voted cast ballots in favour of the new agreement that was reached during Conciliation.

Aside from a competitive wage package that should help retain nurses and potentially recruit nurses from outside the province, this agreement addresses many of the challenges nurses confronted during the pandemic and continue to face today, including working short staffed.

A number of significant language and workload improvements were achieved during this round of negotiations thanks to the advocacy and dedication of the bargaining teams, and the Interest-Based Negotiations (IBN) process the unions participated in for the first time with this Employer group.

Face-to-face bargaining with representatives from the unions, the IWK Health Centre, Nova Scotia Health, and the Department of Health and Wellness commenced in January 2023. The parties engaged in IBN for 27 days, followed by 2 days of traditional bargaining.

The Nova Scotia Council of Nursing Unions represents over 10,000 licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and nurse practitioners working in acute care, who had been without a contract since October 31st, 2020. The new collective agreement will expire October 31st, 2025.

The timing of retroactive pay will be addressed by the Employers.

We thank those who were able to participate in the ratification voting process. We thank all members for your continued dedication to the nursing profession, the communities you support, and the patients in your expert care.

Your bargaining committee appreciates the patience and support you have shown throughout this prolonged process.