



**Health Care Bargaining Unit  
Radio Ad Launches, Essential Services Update**

Good afternoon,

The Council of Health Care Unions has been developing a series of initiatives to raise awareness of the value and importance of the work being done by the thousands of members working in the Health Care bargaining unit. The first of those initiatives, a radio ad, began airing on stations throughout the province, as well as on digital platforms, on April 1st. You can listen to the audio [Here](#).

As part of our ongoing bargaining process, the Health Care Council of Unions has been engaged in Essential Service negotiations.

*What are Essential Services?*

As a result of legislation passed by the past Liberal provincial government, CUPE now bargains as part of a Council of Unions. Along with Unifor and the NSGEU for the Health Care Council, we collectively represent approximately 7,500 health care workers working in a wide variety of roles at Nova Scotia Health (NSH) throughout the province and the IWK. We are also now compelled by legislation to work with the employer to establish an Essential Services staffing agreement prior to any legal strike action taking place.

So far, union representatives have met with the employers on ten separate occasions to try and negotiate essential services staffing agreements for this bargaining unit. While we have made good progress, there are still a number of areas that need to be agreed upon. We are in the process of attempting to schedule additional dates.

Health Care Council of Unions representatives met with employer representatives on Monday, March 4th to exchange [proposals](#) and have confirmed eight additional dates to continue bargaining as follows:

- Thursday, April 18th
- Friday, April 19th
- Tuesday, May 14th
- Wednesday, May 15th
- Wednesday, May 22nd
- Thursday, May 23rd
- Tuesday, June 18th
- Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

Please keep a close eye on your email over the coming weeks and speak with your coworkers to ensure they are receiving updates from the union, as well.

If you have questions or concerns about the bargaining process, please contact your area VP.