



Bargaining Update Support Bargaining Unit

April 15, 2024

Dear CUPE Member,

Your bargaining committee wishes to update you on the current round of negotiations for a new collective agreement between the **Council of Health Support Unions** and **Nova Scotia Health (NSH)/IWK**.

Status of Bargaining

Your elected committee has been hard at work on your behalf since early January preparing for negotiations.

The committee has met five times so far with another date scheduled for May 8, 2024. During these meetings, the committee has been preparing proposals based on membership demands and input gathered via the surveys each union distributed to their members and through meetings and personal discussions.

While we have yet to confirm our first date to meet with the employers, the committee is optimistic that an exchange of proposals will happen early in June. This will mark the beginning of negotiations.

What are Essential Services?

As a result of legislation passed by the former Provincial Liberal government, CUPE now bargains as part of a Council of Unions along with NSGEU and Unifor for the Health Support Bargaining Unit.

The Council of Health Support Unions collectively represents approximately 4,000 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.

Along with the bargaining preparation, the Council of Unions is also working through Essential Services negotiations with the Employers that will outline minimum required staffing and service levels in each of

the affected roles during a labour dispute. To date, NSH has provided only a partial plan. The Unions are currently working through the plan and we will continue discussions with the Employer for future dates.

The Essential Services plan with the IWK and the Unions is completed, so our efforts are now focused on a complete plan with NSH.

Please keep an eye on your email over the coming weeks and speak with your coworkers to make sure they are receiving union updates.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Area VP.