

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE DARTMOUTH SENIOR CARE SOCIETY OPERATORS OF
OAKWOOD TERRACE
AND
The Nova Scotia Nurses' Union



November 1, 2020 - October 31, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: Where a provision is annotated by **bolded font** within this document, it indicates a change in language.

ARTICLE	PAGE
ARTICLE 1 - PREAMBLE	1
ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION	1
ARTICLE 3 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS	1
3.01 Contracting Out.....	2
ARTICLE 4 - DEFINITIONS	2
4.00 Actual hours worked or hours of actual work.	2
4.01 A Casual Nurse.....	2
4.02 Employer.....	2
4.03 Full-Time Nurse	2
4.04 Graduate Nurse	2
4.05 Immediate Family.....	2
4.06 Local Union.....	3
4.07 Nurse.....	3
4.08 Part-Time Nurse.....	3
4.09 Pension Plan.....	3
4.10 Probationary Period	3
4.11 Promotion.....	3
4.12 A Registered Nurse.....	3
4.13 Regular Nurse.....	4
4.14 Regular Position.....	4
4.15 Service.....	4
4.16 Spouse.....	4
4.17 Temporary Position	4
4.18 Union means the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union.	5
4.19 Union Management Consultation Committee.....	5
4.20	5
ARTICLE 5 - UNION REPRESENTATION AND UNION LEAVES.....	5
5.00	5
5.01 Collective Agreement Administration.....	5
5.02 Assistance of NSNU Representative	6
5.03 Notice of Participants	6
5.04	6
5.05	6

5.06	Provincial Negotiating Committee	6
5.07	Reproduction of the Collective Agreement	7
5.08	Union Leave	7
5.09	.....	7
5.10	.....	7
5.11	Leave of Absence for the Full-Time President	8
5.12	Acquaint Newly Hired Nurses	8
5.13	Union Orientation	8
5.14	Mutual Agreements	9
5.15	Bulletin Boards	9

ARTICLE 6 - DUES DEDUCTIONS AND UNION SECURITY..... 9

6.00	Membership	9
6.01	Union Dues Deductions	9
6.02	.....	9
6.03	.....	9
6.04	.....	9
6.05	.....	9
6.06	.....	10
6.07	Licensing Body Dues Deduction	10

ARTICLE 7 - HOURS OF WORK/OVERTIME/CALL BACK..... 10

7.00	.....	10
7.01	Meal and Rest Breaks.....	10
7.02	.....	10
7.03	.....	11
7.04	.....	11
7.05	.....	11
7.06	.....	11
7.07	Overtime	11
7.08	.....	12
7.09	Meal Allowance on Overtime.....	12
7.10	Guaranteed Work.....	12
7.11	Call Back.....	12
7.12	Nursing Coverage.....	12
7.13	Changed Schedules/Changed Shifts	12
7.14	Semi-Annual Time Change	13
7.15	Maximum Hours of Work.....	13

ARTICLE 8 – SALARIES, INCREMENTS AND PREMIUMS..... 13

8.01	A. Recognition of Previous Experience/ Placement on the Salary Scale	13
	B. Movement on Increment Scale - Regular Nurses	15
	Anniversary Date Regular Nurses.....	15
8.02	Pay Day	15
8.03	Pay Practices	15
8.04	Nurse Facility Responsibility Pay	15
8.05	Shift Premium	16

8.06	Weekend Premium	16
8.07	Education Premiums.....	16
8.08	New Classification.....	16
8.09	Retroactivity	16
8.10	.....	16
8.11	Preceptorship.....	17

ARTICLE 9 - LEAVE OF ABSENCES..... 18

9.00	Leave Without Pay	18
9.01	Working During Leave of Absence.....	18
9.02	Return From Leave of Absence	18
9.03	Bereavement Leave.....	19
9.04	Compassionate Care Leave.....	20
9.05	Court Leave	21
9.06	Public Office Leave	21
9.07	Education Leave	22
9.08	Leave for Storm Or Hazardous Conditions	22
9.09	Leave for Parent of a Critically Ill Child	212
9.10	Domestic Violence,Intimate Partner Violence or Sexual Violence Leave	213
9.11	Leave for a Reservist.....	23
9.12	Leave for Care of a Critically Ill Adult	23
9.13	Leave for Crime-ekated Death or Disappearance of a Child	23

ARTICLE 10 - VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS 23

10.00	Annual Vacation Accumulation (Based on 2080 hours)	23
10.01	Annual Vacation Pay	24
10.02	Annual Vacation Cut Off Date	24
10.03	.....	24
10.04	.....	24
10.05	Carry Over of Annual Paid Vacation Leave	24
10.06	.....	25
10.07	.....	25
10.08	.....	26
10.09	.....	26
10.10	Annual Vacation Cancellation	26
10.11	Holidays	26
10.12	.....	26
10.13	Entitlement to Paid Holiday Leave Credits.....	26
10.14	Holiday Premium Pay	26
10.15	.....	27
10.16	.....	27
10.17	.....	27
10.18	Holiday and Sick Leave Pay	27

ARTICLE 11 - SENIORITY, LAY-OFF, RECALL 27

11.00	A. Regular Seniority	27
	B. Same Date Seniority.....	27

	Regular Nurses	27
11.01	Casual Nurse in a Temporary Position appointed to a Regular Position	27
11.02	.....	28
11.03	Seniority Lists.....	28
11.04	Loss of Seniority And Employment	28
11.05	Loss of Seniority	29
	Layoff and Recall	29
11.06	.....	29
11.07	Notice of Layoff	29
11.08	.....	30
11.09	.....	30
11.10	Working During Layoff.....	30
11.11	Recall From Layoff.....	30
11.12	Recall – Accept or Decline	30
11.13	New Employees	31
11.14	.....	31
11.15	.....	31
11.16	.....	31
11.17	.....	31
11.18	.....	31

ARTICLE 12 - VACANCIES AND PROMOTIONS 31

12.00	Posting	31
12.01	Selection	31
12.02	.....	32
12.03	.....	32
12.04	Trial Period.....	32
12.05	Orientation	32
12.06	Designated Postings	32

ARTICLE 13 – PREGNANCY, PARENTAL AND ADOPTION LEAVE 33

13.00	Pregnancy/Birth Leave/End of Pregnancy Leave.....	33
13.01	Pregnancy Leave Notice	34
13.02	Pregnancy Sick Leave	34
13.03	Pregnancy/Birth Allowance	34
13.04	Parental and Adoption Leave	36
13.05	Parental and Adoption Leave Allowance.....	37
13.06	Pregnancy/Birth and Parental and Adoption Leave Deferral.....	38
13.07	Return to Work.....	38
13.08	Service and Seniority Continuation	39
13.09	Group Benefit Plan Continuation.....	39
13.10	Special Leave - Birth.....	39
13.11	Special Leave - Adopted Child	39
13.12	Bridging of Service.....	39

ARTICLE 14 - GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION 40

14.00	40
-------	-------	----

Step 1	40
Step 2	40
Step 3	40
14.01	40
14.02 Termination of Employment.....	40
14.03 Policy or Group Grievance	41
14.04 Employer Grievance	41
14.05 Arbitration - Single Arbitrator	41
14.06 Selection of Single Arbitrator.....	41
14.07 Arbitration - Termination	41
14.08	41
14.09	41
14.10	42
14.11	42
14.12 Pre Hearing Disclosure	42
14.13	42
ARTICLE 15 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT	42
15.00 Letter of Appointment.....	42
Position Descriptions	42
15.01	42
15.02	42
15.03	42
15.04	43
15.05 Required Education	43
15.06 Voluntary Continuous Learning	43
15.07 Technological Change.....	43
ARTICLE 16 – STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY	43
16.00	43
16.01 Participation in Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee	44
16.02 Nurse Safety and Security Measures.....	44
16.03 Right to Refuse Work and Consequences of Refusal	44
16.04 Restriction on Assignment of Work Where Refusal.....	46
16.05	46
16.06 Injury on Duty - WCB	46
16.07 Sick Leave while waiting for Workers' Compensation Benefits	46
16.08 WCB and Return to Work.....	47
16.09 Point of Care Risk Assessment.....	47
ARTICLE 17 - PERSONAL PROPERTY	47
ARTICLE 18 - PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION	48
ARTICLE 19 – RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE, PENSION PLAN, RETENTION BONUS AND, RETIREE INCENTIVE.....	48
19.00 Retirement Allowance	48

19.01	(a) NSHEPP Pension Plan.....	48
	(b) Work After Retirement	48
19.03	Nurse Retention Bonus.....	49
19.04	Retiree Recruitment Incentive.....	49
ARTICLE 20 – SICK LEAVE AND GROUP BENEFITS.....		49
20.00	Sick Leave Benefit	49
20.01	Sick Leave Pay	50
20.02	Sick Leave Credits	50
20.03	Annual Statement	50
20.04	Evidence of Illness	50
20.05	Union Representation	50
20.06	Sick Leave Medical/Dental; Family; Emergency	50
20.07	Return to Work from Sick Leave	51
20.08	Confidentiality Of Health Information	51
20.09	Payment For Certificates And Examinations.....	52
20.10	.....	52
20.11	Sick Leave and LTD -	52
20.12	LTD Program.....	52
ARTICLE 21 - PORTABILITY OF BENEFITS		53
21.00	Nurse Mobility	53
21.01	Canadian Nurse Portability	53
21.02	.....	53
ARTICLE 22 - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT.....		54
22.00	.....	54
22.01	.....	54
22.03	.....	54
22.04	.....	54
22.05	Disciplinary Record	54
ARTICLE 23 - PARKING		55
ARTICLE 24 - ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION.....		55
ARTICLE 25 - PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND EMPLOYEE FILES		55
ARTICLE 26 – WEEKEND NURSE		56
ARTICLE 27 - LETTERS OF AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT .		56
ARTICLE 28 – UNION MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION COMMITTEE		56
ARTICLE 29 - WORKLOAD		57

ARTICLE 30 - RESIDENT SAFETY	57
ARTICLE 31 - NO STRIKE / NO LOCKOUT	57
ARTICLE 32 - TERM OF AGREEMENT.....	58
APPENDIX “A” Oakwood Terrace Wage Scales	59
APPENDIX “B” MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - EDUCATION PREMIUMS	60
APPENDIX “C” LETTERS OF AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT	66
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #1	66
Supplementary Leave Credits - Late Career Registered Nurses	66
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #2	66
80/20 Late Career Nurses Strategy.....	66
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #3	67
INNOVATIVE SHIFTS.....	67
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #4	68
REDUCTION IN APPOINTMENT STATUS	68
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #5	70
UNIFORMS	70
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #6.....	71
RE:Committee to Review Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership Premiums	71
Memorandum of Agreement #7.....	73
Filling FTEs of less than 0.4	73
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #8.....	74
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Reconciliation and Accessibility (EDIRA) in the Workplace Committee.....	74
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #9.....	76
RE: Innovative and Creative Scheduling Committee.....	76
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #10.....	78
Exploring Cross Sector Staffing Initiative	78
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #11.....	80
Enhanced Role Opportunities for Nurses	80

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #12.....	821
Increase in Hours During Peak Vacation Period.....	821
<hr/>	
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #13.....	82
Vacation Entitlement.....	82
APPENDIX “D” CLINICAL CAPACITY REPORT	83

ARTICLE 1 - PREAMBLE

1.00 WHEREAS it is the desire of the Union, Local Union and the Employer:

- To maintain and improve the harmonious relationship between the Employer and the Union;
- To recognize the value of joint discussion and negotiations in all matters pertaining to working conditions and employment services;
- To set forth certain terms and conditions of employment;
- To maintain professional standards;
- To maintain efficiency in operation consistent with a holistic approach to resident care;
- To promote the morale, well-being and security of all Nurses;
- To ensure uninterrupted service to the Employer;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION

2.00 The Employer recognizes the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union as the sole bargaining agent for all Full-Time and Part-Time and Temporary Registered Nurses employed by the Employer except the Director of Nursing Services, Nurse Managers and those employees excluded by paragraphs (a) and (b), of subsection 2 of section 2 of the *Trade Union Act*.

2.01 The provisions contained herein may be waived only by written agreement of the Parties.

ARTICLE 3 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

3.00 The Employer reserves and retains, solely and exclusively all rights to manage the business including the right to direct the workforce and to make reasonable rules provided that such rights are exercised in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Collective Agreement.

3.01 Contracting Out

No Nurses shall be laid off or have regular hours reduced as a result of the Employer contracting out work, except during emergency situations.

ARTICLE 4 - DEFINITIONS

4.00 Actual hours worked or hours of actual work means all hours where the Nurse is physically present at the work site and being compensated by the Employer.

4.01 A Casual Nurse is one who works to fill-in for a period of less than thirty (30) working days. A Casual Nurse shall receive the appropriate rate pursuant to the provisions of Article 8.00(b) and Appendix "A". However, the benefits of this Agreement do not apply to Casual Nurses except that, in addition to any required statutory benefits, the Employer, in its sole discretion, may pay to a Casual Nurse an additional amount in lieu of non-statutory benefits, in whole or in part, as it may determine.

4.02 Employer is The Dartmouth Senior Care Society, Operators of Oakwood Terrace.

4.03 Full-Time Nurse is a Nurse who is hired to a position on a regular or temporary basis to work the work period described in Article 7.00 of this Agreement.

4.04 Graduate Nurse

A Nurse who is a new graduate of a Nurse educational program who holds a conditional license from the Nova Scotia College of Nursing pending completion of initial licensing requirements. A Graduate nurse shall be paid at the rate of RN 1, until such time as they receive a Nurse license, when they will move to the appropriate classification for the position. The Anniversary Date will be the original date of employment as a Graduate nurse.

4.05 Immediate Family

includes the Nurse's spouse (common law); child (step child) or **ward of the Nurse**; parent (step parent); sibling (step-sibling); grandchild (step-grandchild); grandparent; **parent-in-law, child-in-law, and a relative permanently residing in the Nurse's household or with who the Nurse permanently resides.** The "in law", legal and "step-relative" relationships referred to in this provision will only be considered "Immediate Family" in cases where it is a current relationship at the time the benefit is claimed.

4.06 **Local Union** means the Oakwood Terrace Local of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union.

4.07 **Nurse** is an employee included in the Bargaining Unit described in Article 2.

4.08 **Part-Time Nurse** is a Nurse hired to a position to work on a regular or temporary basis that is less than the work period of a Full-Time Nurse. Part-Time Nurses shall receive pro-rated benefits of this Agreement based on actual hours worked compared to a Full-Time Nurse. In relation to pension and paid medical plans, Nurses may be required to meet minimum eligibility requirements of the plan.

4.09 **Pension Plan** means the **Nova Scotia Health Employees' Pension Plan** or successor defined benefits pension plan.

4.10 **Probationary Period**

- (a) means that period for newly hired Regular Nurses up to 720 hours worked. Employment may be confirmed or terminated at any time during this period. Operational requirements permitting, the Employer shall conduct an appraisal of the Nurse while on a probationary period at approximately the midpoint of the probationary period and at the completion of the period. This probationary period may be extended by mutual agreement between the Employer and a Union representative of the Union Management Consultation Committee.
- (b) An Arbitrator's jurisdiction in any grievance filed relating to the termination of employment of a probationary Nurse shall be restricted to a determination of whether the Employer's exercise of its discretion to terminate was arbitrary, discriminatory or in bad faith.
- (c) Any Nurse who resigns after completing **their** probationary period but who is rehired by the same Employer within six (6) months of **their** resignation shall be required to serve a probationary period of up to 360 hours worked. This probationary period may be extended by mutual agreement between the Employer and a Union Representative of the Union Management Consultation Committee.

4.11 **Promotion**

means a permanent appointment to a different classification with a higher pay scale as set out in Appendix "A" of this Agreement, or as may be created throughout the term of this Agreement.

4.12 **A Registered Nurse**

is an employee who has a current license to practice as a Registered Nurse, issued by the Nova Scotia College of Nursing and is employed at The

Dartmouth Senior Care Society, Operators of Oakwood Terrace as a Registered Nurse.

4.13 Regular Nurse is a Nurse who occupies a permanent Part-Time or Full-Time position as an employee of the Employer.

4.14 Regular Position means an individual Nurse's job defined as a percentage of full-time hours as set out in the appointment letter referred to in Article 15.

4.15 Service

(a) refers to a continuous employment relationship, commencing on first shift worked in any position with the Employer, subject to the provisions of Article 21 (PORTABILITY). (Casual Nurses are governed by Article 4.145 (b)).

(b) A Casual Nurse who becomes a Regular Nurse shall have time worked in any position with the Employer commencing on the first shift worked in the most recent employment relationship with the Employer, converted to service, for the purpose of vacation accumulation only on the basis of 2080 hours equalling one (1) year of service.

4.16 Spouse

means a legal marriage partner or a live-in partner who has been identified in writing by the Nurse to the Employer as the spouse. This **person will be the Spouse** all purposes under this Collective Agreement, but subject to the eligibility provisions of the respective Benefit Plans.

4.17 Temporary Position

(i) is a position that the Employer has determined will be in excess of eight (8) consecutive work weeks but which is not a Regular Position. A Temporary Position may be either a new position for the designated period or a temporary vacancy of a Regular Position.

(ii) A Nurse filling a Temporary Position shall accumulate the vacation, holiday and sick leave benefits of the Agreement on a pro rata basis to regular hours paid which shall include the straight time hourly equivalent of overtime hours worked to a maximum of the entitlement for a Regular Position. All other provisions are applicable to the Nurse in a Temporary Position unless specified otherwise.

(iii) A Nurse filling a Temporary Position shall be entitled to participate in the Benefit Plans in accordance with the terms of eligibility of the respective Plans.

- (iv) Where the Temporary vacancy is for a period of eight (8) consecutive work weeks or more, the Employer shall post the position pursuant to Article 12 and shall indicate on the posting the expected duration of the Temporary Position. The Temporary Position may be extended, shortened or terminated at the Employer's discretion.
- (v) In the event that a Temporary Position is to be extended from the original duration, the Nurse filling the position will be given the option of remaining for the extended period or returning to **their** previous position or casual status, where applicable, and salary, without loss of Seniority, and any other Nurse promoted or transferred because of the re-arrangement of positions shall be returned to their former position or casual status, where applicable and salary, without loss of Seniority.
- (vi) A Regular Nurse in a Temporary Position is a Regular Nurse. Upon the termination of a Temporary Position, a Regular Nurse filling a Temporary Position shall return to the Regular Nurse's previous position, or if it has been discontinued, to an equivalent position.

4.18 **Union** means the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union.

4.19 **Union Management Consultation Committee** means the Committee established in Article 28 of the Collective Agreement.

4.20 For the purpose of this Agreement and the singular **shall be** deemed to include the plural, **as applicable** and vice versa.

ARTICLE 5 - UNION REPRESENTATION AND UNION LEAVES

5.00 The Union shall provide the Employer with a list of the Nurses designated as representatives of the Union which will include members of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union Board of Directors or Standing Committees (if applicable), the members of the Local Executive, and shop stewards. The list will include the title of the Union position, the general role of the designation and the duration of the appointment.

5.01 Collective Agreement Administration

- (a) The Employer recognizes the right of the Local Union to elect representatives who shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the Collective Agreement.

- (b) A Nurse who is so designated by the Local Union shall be allowed a reasonable amount of time, without loss of regular pay or benefits, to attend meetings with the Employer during normal working hours to assist in matters relating to the Agreement.
- (c) Such a representative must request and obtain permission from the Nurse's immediate management supervisor prior to leaving and report to the supervisor immediately upon return. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

5.02 Assistance of NSNU Representative

The Local Union may have the assistance of a representative from the Union in all meetings relating to labour relations between the Union and the Employer. These meetings will not be unreasonably delayed if a representative from the Union is required by the Local Union. The Union agrees that Union activities not provided for in this Agreement will not take place during working hours or on the premises of the Employer, without the consent of the Employer.

5.03 Notice of Participants

In any meeting between the Employer and representatives of the Bargaining Unit, where either Party will have persons from outside the Bargaining Unit or Employer in attendance, advance notice will be provided.

- 5.04** The Union agrees that Union duties and activities will not be carried out on the Employer's premises at any time except where permitted by the Employer. A duly authorized representative of or on behalf of the Union shall have access to the Employer's premises to discuss Union business with the Employer and/or the Nurses covered by this Agreement, but in no case shall such a visit interfere with the progress of work and provided further that permission is first obtained from the Administrator of Oakwood Terrace or designate.

- 5.05** Up to two representatives designated by the Union shall not suffer loss of pay as a result of involvement in direct negotiations between the Employer and the Union.

5.06 Provincial Negotiating Committee

- (a) In the event that a Nurse is a member of the Provincial Negotiating Committee ("PNC"), the Employer will make every reasonable effort to accommodate time off for the Nurse to participate in Union caucus meetings and direct negotiations with any multiple employer group bargaining table, subject to operational requirements.
- (b) At the request of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, the Employer will maintain pay at the regular rates and benefit coverage for a member of the PNC and the Employer will invoice the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union for all

such costs, unless a cost sharing arrangement is agreed to by the Employer(s) and the Union.

5.07 Reproduction of the Collective Agreement

The Employer and the Union agree to **make available the Collective Agreement in an electronic format to Nurses. Upon request by a Nurse, the Employer will provide a copy of the agreement to the Nurse within one calendar week.**

5.08 Union Leave

- (a) Subject to operational requirements such as the Employer's ability to obtain a replacement and at no additional cost in premium pay and provided the Nurse has given a minimum of four (4) weeks written advance notice of the request, the Employer shall grant leaves of absence without pay for one (1) Nurse chosen to represent the Nurses' Union at the Annual and/or Provincial Meetings.
- (b) Additional Nurses may request an unpaid leave of absence to attend the Annual and/or Provincial Meetings of the Union, and such request shall be granted subject to operational requirements such as the Employer's ability to obtain a replacement and at no additional cost in premium pay and provided the Nurse has given a minimum of four (4) weeks written advance notice of the request.
- (c) Subject to operational requirements such as the Employer's ability to obtain a replacement and at no additional cost in premium pay and provided the Nurse has given reasonable advance notice of the request, the Employer shall grant leaves of absence without pay for a member of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union Board of Directors, or Provincial Committee, (except the Provincial Negotiating Committee which is governed by Article 5.06) to attend such Board or Committee meetings.
- (d) Subject to operational requirements such as the Employer's ability to obtain a replacement and at no additional cost in premium pay, the Employer will make every reasonable effort not to cancel Union Leave once it has been approved.

5.09 Periods during which a Nurse is on a leave of absence for Union business shall be deemed to be time worked and paid for the purpose of Service, Seniority and accumulation of benefits.

5.10 At the request of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, the Employer will maintain pay at the regular rates and benefit coverage for those Nurses who have been granted Leaves of Absence without pay for Union business and the Employer will invoice the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, the Nurse's regular rate of pay plus the

Employer's portion of the benefits within sixty (60) days of the completion of the leave of absence. The Nova Scotia Nurses' Union shall pay the invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt of the invoice.

5.11 Leave of Absence for the Full-Time President

Leave of absence for the Full-Time President of the Union shall be granted in accordance with the following:

- (a) Upon reasonable notice, a Nurse elected or appointed as President of the Union shall be given a leave of absence without pay for the term(s) **they are** to serve, commencement and termination dates, as determined by the Union.
- (b) All benefits of the Nurse shall continue in effect while the Nurse is serving as President, and, for such purposes, the Nurse shall be deemed to be in the employ of the Employer and Service and Seniority will continue to accrue. The Union will provide the Employer with an accounting of benefit use such as paid sick leave, vacation and holiday pay on basis to be agreed upon by the Employer and the Union. The Employer will adjust the records of the Nurse accordingly.
- (c) The gross salary of the President shall be determined by the Union and paid to the President by the Employer on a bi-weekly basis, and the amount of this gross salary shall be reimbursed to the Employer by the Union on a basis to be agreed upon by the Employer and the Union.
- (d) The Union shall reimburse the Employer its share of contributions for E.I. premiums, Canada Pension Plan, other pension and group insurance premiums made on behalf of the Nurse during the period of leave of absence.
- (e) Upon expiration of **their** term of office, the Nurse shall be reinstated in the position **they** held immediately prior to the commencement of leave, or if the position no longer exists, to another equivalent position.

5.12 Acquaint Newly Hired Nurses

The Employer agrees to provide newly hired Nurses with a copy of the Agreement and acquaint them with the conditions of employment set out in the Articles concerning dues deductions and Union representation.

5.13 Union Orientation

During orientation of newly hired Nurses, the Employer will allow up to thirty (30) minutes for a representative of the Local Union to speak with the newly hired Nurses.

5.14 Mutual Agreements

No Nurse shall be required or permitted to make any written or verbal agreement with the Employer, its representatives or immediate management supervisors, which is contrary to the terms of this Collective Agreement. This will not prevent a Nurse from making a temporary arrangement with the Employer, its representatives or immediate supervisors, when such an arrangement does not affect other Nurses in the Bargaining Unit.

5.15 Bulletin Boards

The Employer shall provide the Union and the Local Union with bulletin board space for the exclusive posting of notices by the Union pertaining to Union elections, appointments, meeting dates, news items, social and recreational affairs.

ARTICLE 6 - DUES DEDUCTIONS AND UNION SECURITY

6.00 Membership

It shall be a condition of employment for all Nurses in the Bargaining Unit, currently employed by the Employer and all new Nurses in the Bargaining Unit employed by the Employer that they take out and maintain membership in the Union.

6.01 Union Dues Deductions

It shall be a condition of employment for all Nurses in the Bargaining Unit, that dues be deducted from their bi-weekly salary in the amount determined by the Union. The deductions for newly employed Nurses shall be in the first pay period of employment. The dues shall be submitted monthly to the Union together with a list of the Nurses from whom the deductions were made.

6.02 The Union shall advise the Employer in writing of the amount of dues payable.

6.03 The Union agrees to inform the Employer four (4) weeks in advance of the date of any change in the amount of Union dues. The Union agrees to bear the cost of implementing a change in the method of calculating union dues, if the Union should change from either a fixed deduction amount or a percentage of salary.

6.04 The Employer agrees to deduct dues in arrears when requested in writing by the Union to do so, and the Union agrees to make refund to a Nurse concerned when there is an over deduction of dues.

6.05 The Union shall indemnify and save the Employer harmless from any liability arising out of deductions made in accordance with Article 6.01 herein.

6.06 The Employer shall endeavour to advise a representative of the Local Union of all appointments, leaves of absence, resignations, and retirements.

6.07 Licensing Body Dues Deduction

The Employer may deduct the annual professional registration dues payable by a Nurse from the salary of the Nurse on written request by the Nurse. It is the responsibility of Nurses to provide the Employer with the required information regarding licensing in a timely manner.

ARTICLE 7 - HOURS OF WORK/OVERTIME/CALL BACK

7.00 The standard hours of work for a Full-Time Nurse would normally average eighty (80) hours in a two week period consisting of ten (10) eight (8) hour shifts. Such shifts shall include a thirty (30) minute paid meal period and two (15) minute paid breaks.

7.01 Meal and Rest Breaks

- (a) The Employer shall make every reasonable effort to organize the work assignment on a shift in such a way as to allow each Nurse to have designated meal and rest break(s) at regular intervals during the shifts.
- (b) The Employer shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that no Nurse will work longer than five (5) consecutive hours without a break, unless mutually agreed between the Nurse and the Employer.
- (c) Nurses shall be permitted to combine meal and/or rest break(s) where operationally possible.
- (d) Operational requirements may require that Nurses remain on the nursing unit or within the facility for their designated meal and rest break(s).
- (e) Where operational requirements prevent a Nurse from having an uninterrupted meal or rest break(s) and it is not possible to reschedule the missed break(s) or a portion of the break(s) during the remainder of the shift, the Nurse shall be compensated for the portion of the missed meal period or rest period, at a rate of one and one-half times (1.5x) the Nurse's hourly rate for the period of the rest and meal break(s) missed.

7.02 Part-Time Nurses must indicate their availability to work additional shifts in accordance with established procedures. Such Part-Time Nurses shall be given priority for additional shifts in accordance with Seniority provided there is no overtime costs to the Employer. If a Nurse has not indicated the Nurse's availability to work a particular additional shift by the time required for that purpose, that Nurse shall not be given priority for that shift. It is expressly

understood that operational needs may require any Nurse to work additional shifts. The Employer expressly agrees to use the above-mentioned system for assigning additional shifts. However, the Employer shall not be held financially liable for an occasional human error in the assignment of additional shifts.

- 7.03** Should the Employer decide to change any of the present rotations, the Employer shall meet with the Union to discuss the change. The meeting shall be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the implementation of a new rotation.
- 7.04** The schedule of hours shall be posted four (4) weeks in advance of the schedule to be worked, such schedule to cover a period of not less than two (2) weeks and not more than six (6) weeks, unless a longer period is mutually agreed between the Parties.
- 7.05** The practice of self-scheduling for shift changes and/or vacation shall continue. This self-scheduling practice shall not be changed without the Employer consulting the Union at least thirty (30) days prior to implementing the change. If self-scheduling is discontinued, the Parties shall meet to negotiate changes to those articles of the Collective Agreement which are directly related to self-scheduling.
- 7.06** Unless mutually agreed upon otherwise, there shall be sixteen (16) hours between regularly scheduled shifts.
- 7.07 Overtime**
- (a) Time worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day or eighty (80) hours bi-weekly, and any time required by the Employer to be worked on shifts which are in addition to a Nurse's regularly scheduled number of shifts in a work week (other than those shifts where the employee agrees with the Employer or with another employee to work such additional shifts) shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times (1.5x) the Nurses' regular rate of pay.
 - (b) Time worked in excess of twelve (12) hours per day shall be compensated at the rate of two times (2x) the Nurse's regular rate of pay.
 - (c) Overtime will only be paid if it has received authorization from the Director of Nursing Services, Administrator, or if they are not available, from the R.N. supervisor. Except in extenuating circumstances, or management is not available to obtain permission, overtime must have prior authorization.

- (d) Overtime shall not be claimed for less than fifteen (15) minutes at the end of a shift, but if overtime amounts to fifteen (15) minutes or more, the overtime rates shall apply to the total period in excess of the shift.

7.08 Overtime shall be paid not later than two pay periods of its occurrence.

7.09 Meal Allowance on Overtime

- (a) Nurses will be provided with a meal or a meal allowance in accordance with the Employer's policy.
- (b) Where it is known to the Employer that an overtime assignment is to be in excess of four (4) hours, the Nurse who is required to work the overtime beyond **their** scheduled hours of work shall be granted a fifteen (15) minute paid break prior to the commencement of the overtime.

7.10 Guaranteed Work

Nurses who report for work as scheduled by the Employer will be guaranteed work for that shift.

7.11 Call Back

- (a) When a Nurse is required to report back to work after leaving the premises of the Employer following completion of a shift but before the commencement after next shift, the Nurse shall be paid for the extra time worked at a minimum of four (4) hours pay at straight time rates or overtime in accordance with Article 7.07, whichever is greater.
- (b) This does not apply to work performed as a replacement for a regular shift or work performed within two and one half (2.5) hours prior to a regular shift.
- (c) A Nurse required to report back to work pursuant to Article 7.11 (a) between 2400 hours and 0600 hours shall have taxi fare paid to a maximum of ten dollars (\$10.00).

7.12 Nursing Coverage

Nurses agree to maintain nursing coverage for all units during the shift change subject to the overtime provisions of Article 7.07 (overtime).

7.13 Changed Schedules/Changed Shifts

The Employer shall advise any Nurse of an intended change in the Nurse's schedule as soon as it is known by the Employer.

- (a) A minimum of **forty-eight (48)** hours notice in advance of a scheduled shift shall be given to the Nurse when the shift to be worked is changed. A change of shift occurs when both the scheduled start time and end time

for a scheduled shift is changed or the calendar date of the shift is changed.

- (b) Except where the change is by mutual agreement between the Nurse and the Employer, if the schedule is changed by the Employer without the minimum **forty-eight (48)** notice prior to the start of the original shift, the Nurse shall be compensated at the overtime rate for each hour worked.
- (c) The requirement to work additional hours continuous to an assigned shift (whether before the shift or after the shift) is not a change of schedule and the Nurse shall be compensated for the additional hours in accordance with the overtime provisions (set out in Article 7.07) of this Collective Agreement.

7.14 Semi-Annual Time Change

The changing of daylight saving time to standard time, or vice versa, shall not result in Nurses being paid more or less than their normal scheduled daily hours. The hour difference shall be split between the Nurses completing their shift and those commencing their shift.

7.15 Maximum Hours of Work

- (a) **Nurses shall not normally be required to work more than a total of sixteen (16) hours (inclusive of regular and overtime hours) in a twenty-four (24) hour period beginning at the first (1st) hour the Nurse reports to work, except as set out in Article 7.12 Nursing Coverage.**
- (b) In extraordinary circumstances where the Employer requires a Nurse to work beyond sixteen (16) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period, the Nurse's manager will ensure that options including but not limited to overtime or short notice change of schedule, have been exhausted by the Employer prior to requiring a Nurse to work beyond sixteen (16) hours. The Employer will ensure the Nurse has appropriate supports to mitigate the impact of working beyond sixteen (16) hours, including but not limited to modifying the Nurses' assignment and providing additional rest periods.

Where a Nurse has been required to work beyond sixteen (16) hours, the Nurse will complete a Clinical Capacity report.

ARTICLE 8 – SALARIES, INCREMENTS AND PREMIUMS

8.01A Recognition of Previous Experience/ Placement on the Salary Scale

When a Nurse has produced proof or evidence of **their** previous satisfactory recent nursing experience, placement on the salary scale in Appendix "A" shall

be in accordance with the following provisions. Recognition of previous experience will only be deemed as satisfactory and recent where the Nurse has not been away from active nursing for more than five (5) years.

One year of satisfactory recent nursing experience for the purpose of initial placement of a Nurse on the salary scale shall be equivalent to 2080 regular hours paid.

- (a) A Nurse with less than one (1) year of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the start rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (b) A Nurse with a minimum of one (1) year of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the one (1) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (c) A Nurse with a minimum of two (2) years of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the two (2) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (d) A Nurse with a minimum of three (3) years of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the three (3) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (e) A Nurse with a minimum of four (4) years of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the four (4) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (f) A Nurse with a minimum of five (5) years of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the five (5) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".
- (g) **Effective November 1, 2023 a Nurse with a minimum of six (6) years of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed a the six (6) year rate of the applicable salary scale of Appendix "A".**
- (h) **Effective November 1, 2023 a Nurse with a minimum of seven (7) years or more of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the seven (7) year rate of the applicable salary scale of Appendix "A".**
- (i) A Nurse with twenty-five (25) years or more of satisfactory recent nursing experience shall be placed at the twenty-five (25) year rate of the **applicable** salary scale of Appendix "A".

8.01B Movement on Increment Scale - Regular Nurses

Anniversary Date Regular Nurses

- (a) "Anniversary Date" for the purposes of Article 8 means the date of the first shift worked in a Regular position.
- (b) On a year to year basis following the Anniversary Date the Nurse shall be advanced to the next level on the increment scale within the Nurse's classification as listed in Appendix "A".
- (c) The original Anniversary Date is portable pursuant to the provisions of Article 21.
- (d) When a Nurse is appointed to a position with a higher classification and pay scale, the original Anniversary Date does not change. The Nurse is appointed to the level on the increment scale appropriate to **their** Anniversary Date.
- (e) A Nurse must commence a new Anniversary Date if **they** assumes a new professional designation.

8.02 Pay Day

- (a) The Employer shall pay each Nurse every two (2) weeks. The amount shall be in accordance with the applicable hourly rate for the Nurse's classification and increment level listed in Appendix "A". Payment will include regular pay and will include any other income earned during the preceding pay period. Every effort will be made to supply requested information to a Nurse as to the amount paid on or before pay day.
- (b) In the event that an error made by the Employer results in a Nurse not receiving four (4) or more hours or wages earned in any one pay period, the Employer will endeavour to adjust the error and pay the wages within two (2) business days of the error having being identified.

8.03 Pay Practices

The Employer recognizes the importance of regularity in pay practices and to the greatest extent possible the Employer will not alter the payment routines. Nurses will be notified in writing by the Employer not less than sixty (60) days in advance of a change to the pay practices.

8.04 Nurse Facility Responsibility Pay

In the absence of management staff, the Employer may designate a Nurse to be responsible for the facility. If designated, the Nurse will receive a premium of **two** dollar **(\$2.00)** per hour for each hour worked with the designated responsibility.

8.05 Shift Premium

A shift differential premium of **two dollars and thirty-five cents (\$2.35)** per hour shall be paid to a Nurse for each hour worked between 1900 hours and 0700 hours.

This premium shall increase to three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) per hour effective December 21, 2023 and shall increase to four dollars (\$4.00) per hour effective April 1, 2025.

8.06 Weekend Premium

A weekend premium of **two dollars and thirty-five cents (\$2.35)** per hour shall be paid to a Nurse for each hour worked between the hours of 00 01 Saturday and 07 00 Monday.

This premium shall increase to three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) per hour effective December 21, 2023 and shall increase to four dollars (\$4.00) per hour effective April 1, 2025.

8.07 Education Premiums

Eligible Nurses will be paid the applicable education premiums as set out in Appendix "B".

8.08 New Classification

Should a new position or new classification be created within the Bargaining Unit during the terms of this Agreement, the Employer and the Union will decide the rate of pay. Nothing herein prevents the Employer from filling such positions and having employees work in such positions during such negotiations. The salary, when determined, will be retroactive to the date on which the Nurse commenced work in the classification.

8.09 Retroactivity

Retroactivity shall only apply to provisions of the salary adjustment in Appendix "A", annexed hereto. The Employer endeavours to compute and pay the salary adjustments for each Nurse as expeditiously as reasonably possible. Otherwise the provisions become effective on the date of signing the renewal Collective Agreement or as expressly stated in the Collective Agreement.

8.10 Nurses who have resigned shall have thirty (30) days after the signing of this agreement to apply in writing for retroactivity. Failure to apply within thirty (30) days shall result in forfeiture of retroactivity.

8.11 Preceptorship

Nothing herein removes the obligation of Nurses to participate in general orientation of a new hire.

The Parties recognize and acknowledge that every Nurse has a professional responsibility to participate in preceptor duties for other Nurses subject to the following:

- a) "Preceptor" shall mean a Nurse who is assigned to supervise, educate, and evaluate Nurse preceptees in a formal relationship for a pre-determined length of time. A Nurse acting as a preceptor has an assigned responsibility and accountability for the activities and overall learning of the Nurse preceptee.**
- b) Nurses may be required, as part of their duties, to act as Preceptors for Other Nurses in supervising activities of Nurse learners, New Graduate Nurses, and newly hired Nurse and in accordance with current guidelines. Nurses will be informed in writing of their responsibilities in relation to these preceptees and will be provided with appropriate training as determined by the Employer.**
- c) In the case of student Nurses and New Graduate Nurses, any relevant information that is provided to the Employer by the educational institution with respect to skill level of preceptees will be made available to the Nurses supervising the preceptees.**
- d) A Nurse who is interested in acting as a Preceptor will identify their interest to the Employer and may be approved by the Employer. However, a Nurse who is not currently a Preceptor may be assigned Preceptor duties when required.**
- e) A Nurse accepted by the Employer as a Preceptor may be removed by the Employer if the Nurse is not capable of performing preceptor duties. The Employer may permit a Nurse to opt out of a preceptor assignment if it is determined that the relationship is not beneficial to both parties.**
- f) The Employer will endeavor to provide preceptor training to interested Nurses who will be precepting. Training will be scheduled subject to operational requirements and without loss of pay to the Nurse. Those Nurses accepted to act as a Preceptor shall be given first consideration for such training if needed.**
- g) A Nurse designated as a Preceptor will be paid a premium of \$1.50 for**

each hour worked as a Nurse Preceptor.

ARTICLE 9 - LEAVE OF ABSENCES

9.00 Leave Without Pay

- (a) Subject to operational requirements, the Employer shall grant a leave of absence without pay for personal reasons. The request will not be unreasonably denied. A request by a Nurse for a leave of absence without pay for personal reasons in order to pursue alternate employment with another employer may be denied by the Employer or granted by the Employer at its sole discretion.
- (b) Nurses shall be entitled, during the unpaid LOA, to continue participation in the Benefit Plans, subject to eligibility provisions within the specific Benefit Plans, provided the Nurse pays 100% of the cost of the participation (both the Employer and Nurse portion) in the Benefit Plans.
- (c) Nurses who, prior to the unpaid LOA, were participating in payroll deductions, at the commencement of the unpaid LOA shall be responsible for making specific arrangements with the Employer for continued participation.

9.01 Working During Leave of Absence

- (a) A Regular Nurse may choose to work for the Employer while on a Leave of Absence. Whether a Regular Nurse on an approved Leave of Absence works any shifts at all for the Employer during such leave of absence will be entirely at the discretion of such Nurse. The granting of the Leave of Absence will not be dependent on the Nurse agreeing to work during the Leave of Absence.
- (b) When a Regular Nurse agrees to work while on an approved leave, the Nurse maintains the status of a Regular Nurse on Leave. Any rights or protections **they** would have while on the leave are maintained.
- (c) When a Regular Nurse agrees to work while on an approved leave, the Nurse is treated as a Casual Nurse for the purpose of determining pay and benefits, excluding provisions for accumulation of Seniority and movement along the increment scale.

9.02 Return From Leave of Absence

- (a) Before a Nurse may return to work from a leave granted under Article 9.00, **they** must provide a minimum of four (4) weeks written notice of the specific date of **their** return to work, or such shorter time as mutually agreed.

- (b) Upon return from an approved Unpaid Leave of Absence, a Nurse shall be reinstated to **their** former position unless the position has been discontinued, in which case the Nurse shall be appointed to an equivalent position. A Casual Nurse shall be returned to the Nurse's previous Casual Status.
- (c) This clause requiring four (4) weeks written notice, does not apply to other leaves granted by an express provision of this Collective Agreement with different requirements for written notice.

9.03 Bereavement Leave

Immediate Family is defined in Article 4.05 and repeated here for convenience: includes the Nurse's spouse (common law), child (step child) **or ward of the Nurse**, parent (step parent), sibling (step-sibling), grandchild (step-grandchild), grandparent, **parent-in-law, child-in-law, and a relative permanently residing in the Nurse's household or with whom the Nurse permanently resides.**

The "in law" and "step-relative" relationships referred to in this provision will only be considered "Immediate Family" in cases where it is a current relationship at the time the benefit is claimed.

For the purpose of this Article, "Immediate Family" as defined above will include one person who is equivalent to a member of the immediate family for the Nurse. A Nurse shall be entitled to bereavement leave for such person only once during the Nurse's total period of employment with the Employer.

- (a) **If a death occurs in the immediate family of a Nurse when the Nurse is at work, or scheduled to go to work on that day, then the Nurse shall be granted bereavement leave with pay for the Nurse's scheduled shift or the remainder of the scheduled shift until the commencement of bereavement leave.**
- (b) In the event of a death in the Nurse's Immediate Family, the Nurse shall be granted five (5) consecutive days leave of absence effective midnight following the death. The Nurse shall be paid for all shifts **they** would normally be scheduled to work during those five (5) days leave if the death had not occurred.
- (c) Up to two (2) consecutive days bereavement leave with pay shall be granted for the purpose of attending the funeral of a **sibling**-in-law, aunt or

uncle, niece or nephew provided that such day is the Nurse's normally scheduled working day.

- (d) **If a Nurse is required to travel either out of province or in excess of 300 kms from the Nurse's residence to attend a ceremonial observance of the death/funeral service, the Nurse will be entitled to an additional two (2) days unpaid leave consecutive to the bereavement leave. The Nurse may request that such leave be paid from accumulated vacation or Holiday banks.**
- (e) If a Nurse is on vacation at the time of the bereavement leave, the Nurse shall be granted bereavement leave and be credited the appropriate number of days to **their** vacation credits.
- (f) A Nurse who would be on a leave of absence other than compassionate leave shall not be eligible for bereavement leave with pay.
- (g) A Nurse when for any reason other than bereavement leave would not be considered at work, if a death in the immediate family should occur, shall not be eligible for bereavement leave with pay.
- (h) **Bereavement leave may be deferred wholly or partly for the purpose of attending the ceremonial observances of the death to a maximum of two segments. The Nurse shall notify the Employer of this deferment at the time of death. Deferred bereavement leave shall be taken within twelve (12) months of the date of the death.**

9.04 Compassionate Care Leave

- (a) A Nurse who has been employed by the Employer for a period of at least three (3) months is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence **for Compassionate Care Leave pursuant to the *Labour Standards Code*, as amended from time to time. A Nurse who intends to take this leave shall advise the Employer as soon as possible.**
- (b) The Employer shall grant to the Nurse the option of maintaining membership in the benefit plans in which the Nurse participated before the beginning of the leave (subject to the eligibility requirements of the Plan(s)) and shall notify the Nurse in writing of the option and the date beyond which the option may no longer be exercised at least ten (10) days before the last day on which the option could be exercised to avoid an interruption in benefits.
- (c) Where the Nurse opts in writing to maintain membership in the benefits plans the Nurse shall enter into an arrangement with the Employer to pay the cost required to maintain membership, including the Employer's share

thereof, and the Employer shall process the documentation and payments as arranged.

9.05 Court Leave

Leave of absence without loss of regular pay shall be given to a Nurse other than a Nurse on leave of absence without pay or under suspension, who is required:

- (a) to serve on a jury; (including the time spent in the jury selection process); or
- (b) by subpoena or summons to attend as a witness in any proceedings for a matter related to the Nurses' own employment:
 - (i) in or under the authority of a court or tribunal; or
 - (ii) before an Arbitrator or person or persons authorized by law to make an inquiry to compel the attendance of witnesses before it.
- (c) by the Employer to appear as a witness in a legal proceeding, in which case the time involved shall be considered time worked.
- (d) The leave of absence shall be sufficient in duration to permit the Nurse to fulfill the witness or jury obligation.
- (e) A Nurse given Court leave of absence without loss of regular pay shall pay to the Employer the amount that the Nurse receives for this duty.
- (f) The Nurse shall advise the Employer as soon as possible after receipt of a jury notice or subpoena.

9.06 Public Office Leave

- (a) An Employer shall grant a leave of absence without pay upon the request of any Nurse to run as a candidate in a Federal, Provincial, or Municipal election. If the Nurse withdraws as a candidate or is an unsuccessful candidate, **they are** entitled to return to **their** former position without loss of benefits provided that the Nurse gives two (2) weeks notice to the Employer of **their** intent to return unless mutually agreed to a shorter notice period.
- (b) Any Nurse in the Bargaining Unit who is elected to full-time office in the Federal, Provincial, or Municipal level of Government shall be granted a leave of absence without pay, for a term not exceeding five (5) years.
- (c) Upon return, the Nurse will be placed in a position determined in accordance with the needs of the Employer at that time. The Nurse shall be placed on the same level of the increment scale the Nurse formerly

occupied prior to commencing the leave of absence. The Nurse shall retain all benefits which accrued up to the time the Nurse commenced the leave of absence, including Service. The Nurse shall continue to accrue Seniority during the leave of absence.

9.07 Education Leave

- (a) The Employer may grant a leave of absence without pay for educational purposes to a Nurse who has been employed for a minimum of one year. Such leave must be requested at least three (3) months in advance of the requested commencement date and the nature of the educational program must be directly related to the skills and requirements of the Employer.
- (b) A Nurse on Education Leave shall retain those benefits which accrued up to the time the Nurse commenced the leave of absence. The Nurse shall continue to accrue Service and Seniority during the leave of absence.
- (c) On return, the Nurse shall return to the same or equivalent previous position and appointment status that the Nurse had prior to commencing the leave, unless mutually agreed upon otherwise.
- (d) A Nurse on Education Leave may be permitted to work for the Employer while on Education Leave subject to the principles set out in Article 9.01.
- (e) Subject to the provisions of the applicable benefits plans, a Nurse on an educational leave of absence may maintain membership in the plans if the Nurse agrees to pay both the Employer and Employee share of the contributions.

9.08 Leave for Storm Or Hazardous Conditions

It is the responsibility of the Nurse to make every reasonable effort to arrive at their work location as scheduled, however, during storm conditions, when such arrival is impossible, or delayed, all absent time will be deemed to be leave, and the Nurse has the option to:

- (a) take the absent time as unpaid; or
- (b) deduct the absent time from accumulated overtime, holiday time or vacation; or
- (c) when the Nurse has no entitlement to accumulated paid leave, the Nurse may, with prior approval of the Employer, make up the absent time as the scheduling allows.

9.09 Leave for Parent of a Critically Ill Child

Nurses shall be granted Leave for Parent of a Critically Ill Child in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

9.10 Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence or Sexual Violence Leave

Nurses shall be granted Domestic Violence Leave in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

9.11 Leave for a Reservist

Nurses shall be granted Leave for a Reservist in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

9.12 Leave for Care of a Critically Ill Adult

Nurses shall be granted Leave for Care of a Critically Ill Adult in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

9.13 Leave for Crime-related Death or Disappearance of a Child

Nurses shall be granted Leave for Crime-related Death or Disappearance of a Child in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia.

ARTICLE 10 - VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

10.00 Annual Vacation Accumulation (Based on 2080 hours)

Each year of service for the application of this Article shall be a period of twelve (12) months effective on the Nurse's date of hire.

Paid vacation leave credits shall be earned on the basis of regular hours paid.

"Regular hours paid" for the purpose of calculating paid vacation leave credits shall include the straight time hourly equivalent of overtime hours worked to the applicable maximum annual vacation entitlement as set out below.

Vacation credits shall accumulate to the Nurses on the following basis:

- (a) Effective the date of hire, vacation shall accumulate at the rate of one (1) hour of vacation credit for each 17.333 regular hours paid to a maximum of 120 hours.

- (b) Effective on the commencement of the fifth (5th) year of service, vacation shall accumulate at the rate of one (1) hour of vacation credit for each 13.000 regular hours paid to a maximum of 160 hours.
- (c) Effective on the commencement of the fifteenth (15th) year of service, vacation shall accumulate at the rate of one (1) hour of vacation credit for each 10.400 regular hours paid to maximum of 200 hours.

10.01 Annual Vacation Pay

Vacation pay shall be paid at the regular hourly rate of the Nurse in effect immediately prior to the Nurse taking vacation.

10.02 Annual Vacation Cut Off Date

The cut off date for using accumulated vacation credits shall be January 1. If, at the end of the year, the Nurse has not exhausted their vacation hours bank, **they** will be paid any unused balance with **their** first pay in the immediately following January.

10.03 The vacation year shall be the calendar year.

10.04 Sick leave may be substituted for vacation interrupted where it can be established by the Nurse to the satisfaction of the Employer that an illness or accident occurred prior to vacation and that illness or accident was such that the vacation of the Nurse was interrupted.

10.05 Carry Over of Annual Paid Vacation Leave

If the Employer is satisfied that a Nurse's prolonged illness or injury prevented the Nurse from taking vacation during the vacation year, the Employer may allow the Nurse to carry over all or a part of **their** unused vacation credits to the subsequent vacation year.

10.06 For scheduling of vacation for the months of June/July/August/September, the following shall apply provided that the vacation request is for five (5) or more consecutive days of vacation:

- (a) The vacation request shall be posted on the Union bulletin board by March 1st. It shall state the amount of vacation time to which each Nurse is entitled as of that date.
- (b) By March 15th all Nurses desiring five (5) or more consecutive days of vacation during the above stated four (4) months will fill in their request. Once this deadline is past no Senior Nurse may bump a junior Nurse for the same time.

- (c) If two Nurses request the same vacation time, the Senior Nurse shall have priority.

Except under extraordinary circumstances only one Nurse from the same shift and same rotation may be off on vacation at one time.

- (d) Part-Time Nurses and Casual Nurses will have until March 31st to book in to work the vacation times available. No Part-Time Nurse can book enough extra shifts to create an overtime payment. However, for the purpose of this clause only, Part-Time Nurses by mutual agreement with the Employer may work overtime shifts at the regular rate of pay.
- (e) By April 6th, management will approve such vacation time.
- (f) If a Nurse's requested vacation is not filled in by a replacement by April 30th, the Nurse requesting the vacation will have an additional two weeks to attempt to find a replacement. If the Nurse's requested vacation cannot be filled then the vacation shall not be taken.
- (g) Once a vacation request is filled all Nurses involved must sign a Leave of Absence Request Form and submit it to the nursing office for approval. Approval will be noted on the vacation request form in the appropriate column.
- (h) If a Casual Nurse, who is filling in vacation time, is awarded a Temporary position, resigns or becomes ill, the Employer will find a replacement for the shifts which were approved to be worked by that Casual Nurse.
- (i) Once the vacation time is approved it must be taken.
- (j) During this vacation period, vacation days (less than five (5) consecutive days) may be taken, provided that the Nurse has a replacement, and such vacation days do not interfere with previously approved vacation time.
- (k) Unless otherwise agreed by the Employer, no Nurse during those prime time months will be entitled to take more than two (2) weeks' vacation time off; the balance of the Nurse's vacation entitlement will be taken during the remaining months of the year, subject to the above provisions relating to the scheduling of such vacation.

10.07 For any vacation, once vacation time has been approved, the shifts become the responsibility of the Nurse who agreed to work them.

10.08 Any request for additional time off (in addition to vacation entitlement) must be submitted and approved by the Director of Nursing Services or designate.

10.09 If a Nurse's vacation is approved and then canceled by the Employer, causing the Nurse to lose a deposit on vacation accommodation and/or travel, and providing the Nurse does everything possible to mitigate the loss, and providing the Nurse notifies the Employer that a deposit will be lost, the Nurse will be reimbursed by the Employer for the amount of the deposit.

10.10 Annual Vacation Cancellation

The Employer will make every reasonable effort not to require a Nurse to return to work after **they have** commenced paid vacation leave. The Nurse returning to work from paid vacation leave, shall be paid **three (3) times the Nurse's** regular hourly rate for the shift(s) worked on the days that had been scheduled vacation leave. The vacation credits shall not be reduced for the previously scheduled vacation time that was rescheduled to work. Further the Nurse shall be permitted to reschedule **their** vacation leave at a time mutually agreed between the Nurse and the Employer.

10.11 Holidays

The following **thirteen (13)** calendar dates shall be recognized as "holidays":

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. New Year's Day | 8. Labour Day |
| 2. Heritage Day | 9. National Day of Truth and Reconciliation |
| 3. Good Friday | 10. Thanksgiving Day |
| 4. Easter Sunday | 11. Remembrance Day |
| 5. Victoria Day | 12. Christmas Day |
| 6. July 1 st | 13. Boxing Day |
| 7. 1st. Monday in August | |

10.12 If the Government of Canada or the Province of Nova Scotia officially proclaims an additional holiday(s), such shall be added as a recognized holiday.

10.13 Entitlement to Paid Holiday Leave Credits

Paid holiday leave credits shall be earned by a Nurse on the basis of regular hours paid. A Nurse shall accumulate entitlement on the basis of one (1) hour of holiday credit for each **20** regular hours paid (including the straight time hourly equivalent to overtime hours worked) to a maximum accrual of **104** hours of holiday credits in a fiscal year period.

10.14 Holiday Premium Pay

A Nurse working on a recognized Holiday is entitled to the following compensation for any hours worked on the calendar date of the recognized Holiday:

- A. A Nurse who is regularly scheduled to work on a recognized Holiday shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half times (1.5 x) the Nurse's regular rate of pay; or
- B. A Nurse who works overtime (as defined in Article 7.07) on a recognized Holiday shall be paid at the rate of two times (2 x) the Nurse's regular rate of pay for the overtime worked.

10.15 For the purpose of determining whether a shift falls on a holiday, holidays shall begin at 2300 hours on the eve of the calendar date of the holiday and continue for twenty-four (24) hours.

10.16 Each Nurse shall receive either Christmas Day or New Year's Day off on the actual day, unless mutually agreed otherwise between a Nurse and the Employer.

10.17 If a Regular or Temporary Nurse had booked any paid Holiday Leave credits for use on a recognized Holiday where the Nurse ended up working on that recognized Holiday, the Nurse is entitled to reschedule the paid holiday leave credits for use at a later time.

10.18 Holiday and Sick Leave Pay

A Nurse who is scheduled to work on the calendar date of a Holiday and who is unable to report for work due to illness or injury shall receive sick leave pay for those hours **they were** scheduled to work that day provided the Nurse has adequate sick leave credits. The holiday credits of the Nurse will not be reduced.

ARTICLE 11 - SENIORITY, LAY-OFF, RECALL

11.00 A. Regular Seniority

Seniority for a Regular Nurse commences on the date of the first shift worked as a Regular Nurse in the Bargaining Unit and shall operate on a Bargaining Unit wide basis unless otherwise specified in the Collective Agreement.

B. Same Date Seniority

Regular Nurses

In the event that two or more Regular Nurses commence work in the Bargaining Unit on the same date, the Nurses' placement on the Seniority list shall be determined by random draw.

11.01 Casual Nurse in a Temporary Position appointed to a Regular Position

Where a Casual Nurse in a Temporary Position is appointed directly to a Regular Position, Regular Seniority shall be deemed to be the first day of continuous service in a Temporary Position. "Appointed directly" shall mean appointment without an interruption for longer than fourteen (14) calendar days.

11.02 Seniority shall be applied in determining a preference for lay-offs, recall and as set out in other provisions of this Agreement. However, Seniority may be bypassed where management can demonstrate that special qualifications not possessed by the Senior Nurse are required.

11.03 Seniority Lists

- (a) The Employer shall post a current Regular Seniority List for Regular Nurses annually in February for thirty (30) days and provide a copy of same to the Local Union.
- (b) Should the Union, Local Union, or any Nurse allege an error in a Seniority List, a written objection must be sent to the Employer within thirty (30) days of the date the Seniority List in question was first posted by the Employer. All corrected, or final Seniority Lists will be provided by the Employer to the Local Union and shall be deemed to be correct and accurate in all respects.

11.04 Loss of Seniority And Employment

A Nurse shall lose both Seniority and employment in the event that:

- (a) The Nurse is discharged for just cause and is not reinstated.
- (b) The Nurse resigns or retires from employment.
- (c) After recall, the Nurse fails to notify the Employer as set out in lay off provisions unless such notice was not reasonably possible.
- (d) The Nurse is laid-off for more than two (2) years, subject to lay off provisions.
- (e) The Nurse is absent from work for three (3) consecutive scheduled shifts or more without sufficient cause or without notifying the Employer, unless such notice was not reasonably possible.
- (f) A Nurse who retires from employment loses employment and Service, but if within six months of the retirement, the Nurse returns to work in any Bargaining Unit represented by the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union, the Nurse will maintain the Seniority the Nurse had prior to retirement and may accumulate additional Seniority on a or Regular basis.

- (g) The Nurse fails to return from an approved leave of absence, without notifying the Employer unless such notice was not reasonably possible or takes unauthorized employment while on an approved leave of absence.

11.05 Loss of Seniority

- (a) A Nurse shall lose Seniority in the event that the Nurse has accepted a temporary position with the Employer outside of the Bargaining Unit and remains outside of the Bargaining Unit for more than **eighteen (18) months** fifty-six (56) weeks.
- (b) In the event that an appointment to a position, as described in Article 11.05 (a), outside the Bargaining Unit is to be longer than specified above, extensions shall only be permissible with the agreement of the Bargaining Unit representatives of the Union Management Consultation Committee. Such agreement shall not be unreasonably denied.
- (c) A Nurse must return to and remain in the Bargaining Unit for a period of at least one (1) month before being employed by the Employer in a position outside of the Bargaining Unit again or **they** will lose all seniority held at the time of the subsequent transfer.
- (d) In order to maintain and to continue to accrue Seniority under this provision, the Nurse must agree to pay Union dues for each month **they** is appointed to a position, as described in Article 11.05 (a), with the Employer outside of the Bargaining Unit following a period of **eighteen (18) months**.

Layoff and Recall

- 11.06** In the event of lay offs, Nurses shall be laid off in reverse order of Seniority and recalled by order of Seniority except where the Employer determines that special skills and/or qualifications are required.

11.07 Notice of Layoff

- (a) Twenty-eight (28) days' written notice of layoff shall be given to the President of the Local Union and to the Provincial office of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union except layoff which results from labour disputes or unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Employer in which case as much notice as possible will be given.
- (b) The Employer will consult with the Union representatives regarding ways to minimize the adverse effect on the Nurse(s) to be laid off. The Employer may consider additional options presented by the Union. The application of additional options where agreed by the Union and the Employer shall be deemed to not violate the Collective Agreement.

- (c) Twenty-one (21) days' written notice of layoff shall be given to the affected Nurses ~~except layoff which results from labour disputes or unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Employer in which case as much notice as possible will be given.~~

11.08 The Employer shall not post or fill vacancies that arise until Nurses on layoff have been considered for such vacancies.

11.09 The Employer will provide available options to Nurses in receipt of layoff notices (by order of seniority) including regular and temporary vacancies that have not been filled. Nurses shall have forty-eight (48) hours to consider available options and to notify the Employer in writing of **their** choice.

11.10 Working During Layoff

- (a) Any Nurse who is on layoff may indicate **their** availability to work relief shifts. A Nurse's layoff status shall not change while working relief shifts. The total of the days worked in relief shifts or in Temporary Positions of six (6) months or less shall extend the recall period by that total.
- (b) A Nurse recalled to a Temporary Position of greater than six (6) months shall commence a new recall period at the conclusion of the temporary assignment.

11.11 Recall From Layoff

A Nurse on layoff shall be notified of opportunities for recall in the most expeditious manner possible including telephone, fax, and in person. A formal verification in writing will be provided where the initial contact of recall is other than in writing. Nurses are responsible for leaving their current address and telephone number(s) with the Employer.

11.12 Recall – Accept or Decline

The Nurse shall indicate their intention to accept or decline the recall opportunity to the Employer within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the recall notice. If the Nurse accepts the recall, the Nurse must be available to return to the Employer within two (2) weeks of the notice of recall unless another time period is mutually agreeable between the Nurse and the Employer.

If the Nurse rejects the opportunity for recall the Nurse shall continue on the layoff list if the recall was for a position with fewer hours or a lower rate of pay. In these circumstances, three refusals of recall will result in the Nurse being removed from the recall list and forfeiture of the right of recall.

If the Nurse rejects the opportunity for recall and the position was equivalent to their former position, the Nurse will be removed from the recall list and will forfeit the right of recall.

11.13 New Employees

No Nurse outside the Bargaining Unit shall be employed until all those who have been laid-off have been given an opportunity for re-employment, up to the level of guaranteed hours before layoff, except where the Employer establishes the need to recruit those with special skills and/or qualifications.

11.14 A Nurse who is unable to work a casual shift because of illness, is not entitled to take sick leave with pay.

11.15 During a recall to a Temporary position, provided a Nurse has accrued sick credits, a Nurse is entitled to receive sick leave with pay if an illness occurs during this period and the Nurse is otherwise entitled to sick leave with pay.

11.16 A Nurse who works shifts during a lay off period shall be entitled to the benefits of the Collective Agreement, except as outlined in 11.14 and except cost shared life, health and pension plans.

11.17 A Nurse who works shifts during the lay-off period will be paid at the Nurse's step of the increment scale.

11.18 A Nurse recalled to a Temporary position cannot take another Temporary position until the initial Temporary position is completed. A Nurse who completes such a temporary recall will be laid off and remain on lay-off even if a Nurse with less Seniority is already working in a temporary position.

ARTICLE 12 - VACANCIES AND PROMOTIONS

12.00 Posting

Where a vacancy occurs, a new position is created within the Bargaining Unit or a temporary position exists as a result of a leave of absence of eight (8) weeks or more, a notice shall be posted as soon as possible after the Employer has determined that the vacancy exists and such notice shall be posted for a period of ten (10) calendar days. All applications for vacancies will be in writing. The name of the successful applicant shall normally be provided to the President of the Local Union within fourteen (14) calendar days of the appointment to the position.

12.01 Selection

In the selection of applicants for posted vacant positions in the Bargaining Unit, primary consideration shall be given to skill, ability and qualifications to perform

the required duties. If skill, ability and qualifications are relatively equal, seniority shall prevail.

12.02 If it is necessary to fill a posted position on an interim basis during the posting and selection period the Employer may select any Nurse to fill the interim period provided that first consideration is given to members of the Bargaining Unit. The posting and selection process shall not be unreasonably delayed.

12.03 If the Employer does not intend to fill a vacancy it shall notify a Labour Relations Representative of the Union.

12.04 Trial Period

(a) The Nurse shall be placed on a trial period for five hundred and twenty-eight (528) hours worked in the new position. If the Nurse proves unsatisfactory in the new position, or chooses to return to the Nurse's former position, during the aforementioned trial period, the Nurse shall be returned to the Nurse's former position and salary, without loss of Seniority, and any other Nurse promoted or transferred because of the re-arrangement of positions shall be returned to their former position and salary without loss of Seniority.

(b) Conditional on satisfactory performance of duties, such trial appointments shall become permanent after the period of five hundred and twenty-eight (528) hours worked. The Employer may not extend the trial period for a period greater than two hundred and sixty-four (264) hours worked. In such case the Employer will provide written notice to the Nurse affected by the extension, a Labour Relations Representative of the Union and any other Nurse(s) originally promoted or transferred in this appointment process.

12.05 Orientation

The Employer shall provide planned and paid Orientation Programs of such content and duration as it deems appropriate taking into consideration the needs of the Employer and the Nurses involved. Such Nurses will not be considered part of core staffing during their Orientation Program nor will they be provided with primary assignments.

12.06 Designated Postings

(i) The Union and Employer may agree that job postings be designated as only being eligible to applicants from one or more of the following: Indigenous peoples, Black/African Nova Scotians, people of African descent, people of colour, persons living with a disability/disabilities, gender, and persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and/or expression.

- (ii) The Employer shall provide the Union with the rationale for the designated posting.
- (iii) The Union shall respond within 5 working days of receipt of the information in (ii) and the Union shall not unreasonably refuse the request.
- (iv) Eligible, qualified Nurses, as per (i) of the bargaining unit will be given preference over external applicants.
- (v) If the position cannot be filled as per this article the position will be reposted and filled in accordance with Article 12 Job Posting.

ARTICLE 13 – PREGNANCY, PARENTAL AND ADOPTION LEAVE

13.00 Pregnancy/Birth Leave/End of Pregnancy Leave

- (a) A pregnant Nurse is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence, which when combined with parental leave, is a maximum of up to **seventy eight (78)** weeks.
- (b) A pregnant Nurse shall, no later than the fifth (5th) month of pregnancy, forward to the Employer a written request for pregnancy leave.
- (c) The Employer may, prior to approving such leave, request a certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner stating that the Nurse is pregnant and specifying the expected date of delivery.
- (d) Pregnancy leave shall begin on such date as the Nurse determines, but not sooner than sixteen (16) weeks preceding the expected date of delivery nor later than the date of delivery.
- (e) Pregnancy leave shall end on such date as the Nurse determines, but not later than **seventy eight (78)** weeks following the date of delivery, nor sooner than one (1) week after the date of delivery.
- (f) Nurses on pregnancy leave shall not accrue hours worked for the purposes of vacation, sick time, or holidays. A Nurse who is receiving compensation under Article 13.043 (b) and 13.065 (b) shall accrue benefits based on the hourly equivalent of the “top-up” compensation.
- (g) **Every Nurse shall be entitled to leave, in accordance with the *Labour Standards Code* of Nova Scotia, for a pregnancy which ends prior to nineteen (19) weeks. The Nurse may be eligible for sick leave or the Nurse may elect that such leave be paid by charging the time to the Nurse’s accumulated vacation or accumulated holiday banks. A**

Nurse shall not be placed or advanced, as part of the Employer's attendance support program as a result of this absence period.

- (h) In the event that a pregnant Nurse's pregnancy ends after the 19th week of pregnancy, the Nurse shall be entitled to up to sixteen (16) weeks of Pregnancy Leave in accordance with the Labour Standards Code of Nova Scotia. Article 13.04 Pregnancy Allowance shall apply.
- (i) The clauses of this Article shall be considered as being automatically amended should applicable legislation be changed to provide benefits more favourable to the Nurses than those contained herein.

13.01 Pregnancy Leave Notice

- (a) A pregnant Nurse shall provide the Employer with at least four (4) weeks notice of the date the Nurse intends to begin pregnancy leave. Such notice and start date of the leave may be amended:
 - (i) by changing the date in the notice to an earlier date for medical reasons as verified by the Nurse's attending physician. In such cases the Nurse will provide as much advance notice of the revised start date of the leave as is possible; or,
 - (ii) by changing the date in the notice to an earlier date for personal reasons if the notice is amended at least four (4) weeks before the originally selected date; or,
 - (iii) by changing the date in the notice to a later date if the notice is amended at least four (4) weeks before the original date.
- (b) Where notice as required under Article 13.01(a) is not possible due to circumstances beyond the control of the Nurse, the Nurse will provide the Employer as much notice as reasonably practicable of the commencement of the Nurse's leave or return to work.
- (c) The Employer shall not terminate the employment of a Nurse because of the Nurse's pregnancy.

13.02 Pregnancy Sick Leave

Leave for illness of a Nurse arising out of or associated with a Nurse's pregnancy prior to the commencement of, or the ending of, pregnancy leave granted in accordance with Article 13.00, may be granted sick leave in accordance with the provisions of the Collective Agreement.

13.03 Pregnancy/Birth Allowance

- (a) A Nurse entitled to pregnancy leave under the provisions of this Agreement, who provides the Employer with proof that **they have** applied for, and is eligible to receive employment insurance (E.I.) benefits pursuant to Section 22, *Employment Insurance Act*, S.C. 1996, c.23, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (S.E.B.).
- (b) In respect to the period of pregnancy leave, payments made according to the S.E.B. Plan will consist of the following:
- (i) Where the Nurse is subject to a waiting period of **one (1)** weeks before receiving E.I. benefits, payments equivalent to seventy-five per cent (75%) of **their** weekly rate of pay, less any other deductions received by the Nurse during the benefit period;
 - (ii) **Where the Nurse has served the one (1) week waiting period in Article 13.03(b)(i), one (1) additional payment equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefit the Nurse is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of their weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the Nurse during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the Nurse would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during that period.**
 - (iii) Up to a maximum of five (5) additional weeks, payments equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefits the Nurse is eligible to receive and ninety-three per cent (93%) of **their** weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the Nurse during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the Nurse would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during the period.
- (c) For the purposes of this allowance, a Nurse's weekly rate of pay will be one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the bi-weekly rate of pay to which the Nurse is entitled for **their** level on the increment scale and **their** position or classification on the day immediately preceding the commencement of the pregnancy leave. In the case of a Part-Time Nurse, such weekly rate of pay will be multiplied by the fraction obtained from dividing the Nurse's hours paid averaged over the preceding twenty-six (26) weeks by the regularly scheduled full-time hours of work for the Nurses' classification. For the purposes of this calculation the hours used for a Part Time Nurse shall be the actual hours paid, or the hours based on the current appointment status of the Part Time Nurse as a percentage of full time hours, whichever is greater.

- (d) Where a Nurse becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, benefits under the S.E.B. plan will be adjusted accordingly.
- (e) The Employer will not reimburse the Nurse for any amount **they are** required to remit to Human Resources Development Canada, where **their** annual income exceeds one and one-half (1½) times the maximum yearly insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act*.

13.04 Parental and Adoption Leave

Shall refer to the following leaves which include biological parents and adoptive parents:

- (a) The parental leave of a Nurse who has taken pregnancy/birth leave and whose newborn child or children arrive in the Nurse's home during pregnancy/birth leave,
 - (i) shall begin immediately upon the exhaustion of the pregnancy/birth allowance without the Nurse's returning to work; and
 - (ii) shall end not later than **seventy eight (78)** weeks after the parental leave began as determined by the Nurse.
 - (iii) In no case shall the combined pregnancy/birth and parental/adoption leaves to which Nurse is entitled exceed a maximum of **seventy eight (78)** weeks.
- (b) The parental leave for a Nurse who becomes a parent of one or more children through the birth of the child or children, other than a parent for whom provision is made in Article 13.04(a),
 - (i) shall begin on such date coinciding with or after the birth of the child as the Nurse determines; and
 - (ii) shall end not later than **seventy eight (78)** weeks after the child or children first arrive in the Nurse's home.
- (c) A Nurse who becomes a parent of one or more children through the placement of the child or children in the care of the Nurse for the purpose of adoption of the child or children is entitled to a leave of absence of up to **seventy eight (78)**. This leave:
 - (i) shall begin on a date coinciding with the arrival of the child or children in the Nurse's home; and

- (ii) shall end not later than **seventy eight (78)** weeks after the leave began.

13.05 Parental and Adoption Leave Allowance

- (a) A Nurse entitled to parental or adoption leave under the provisions of this Agreement, who provides the Employer with proof that **they have** applied for and is eligible to receive employment insurance (E. I.) benefits pursuant to the *Employment Insurance Act*, 1996, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (S.E.B.) Plan.
- (b) In respect to the period of parental or adoption leave, payments made according to the S.E.B. Plan will consist of the following:
 - (i) Where the Nurse is subject to a waiting period of **one (1)** week before receiving E.I. benefits, payments equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of **their** weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the Nurse during the benefit period;
 - (ii) **Where the Nurse has served the one (1) week waiting period in Article 13.05(b)(i), one (1) additional payment equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefit the Nurse is eligible to received and ninety-three percent (93%) of their weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the Nurse during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the Nurse would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during that period; and**
 - (iii) **Up to a maximum of ten (10) additional weeks,**
 - a. **Where the Nurse is in receipt of Standard E.I. Parental Benefits, the payments will be equivalent to the difference between the weekly Standard E.I. Parental Benefits the Nurse is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of the Nurse's weekly rate of pay;**
 - b. **Where the Nurse is in receipt of Extended E.I. Parental Benefits, the payments will be equivalent to the difference between the weekly Standard E.I. Benefits the Nurse would have been eligible to received and ninety three percent (93%) of the Nurse's weekly rate of pay;**
- (c) For the purposes of this article, "Standard E.I. Parental Benefits" means the E.I. benefits paid to a Nurse who is taking a parental leave of up to thirty-five (35) weeks and "Extended E.I. Parental Benefits"

means the E.I. benefits paid to a Nurse who is taking a parental leave greater than thirty-five (35) weeks.

- (d) For the purposes of this allowance, a Nurse's weekly rate of pay will be one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the bi-weekly rate of pay to which the Nurse is entitled for **their** level on the increment scale and **their** position or classification on the day immediately preceding the commencement of the adoption leave. In the case of a Part-Time Nurse, such weekly rate of pay will be multiplied by the fraction obtained from dividing the Nurse's hours paid averaged over the preceding twenty-six (26) weeks by the regularly scheduled full-time hours of work for the Nurses' classification. For the purposes of this calculation the hours used for a Part Time Nurse shall be the actual hours paid, or the hours based on the current appointment status of the Part Time Nurse as a percentage of full time hours, whichever is greater.
- (e) Where a Nurse becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, payments under the S.E.B. Plan will be adjusted accordingly.
- (f) The Employer will not reimburse the Nurse for any amount **they are** is required to remit to Human Resources Development Canada where **their** annual income exceeds one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times the maximum yearly insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act*.

13.06 Pregnancy/Birth and Parental and Adoption Leave Deferral

If a Nurse is entitled to pregnancy/birth or parental, or adoption leave and the child to whom the leave relates is hospitalized for a period exceeding or likely to exceed one week, the Nurse is entitled to return to and resume work and defer the unused portion of leave until the child is discharged from the hospital, upon giving the Employer reasonable notice.

13.07 Return to Work

A Nurse on pregnancy/birth or parental, or adoption leave must provide a minimum of four (4) weeks notice of **their** intended date to return to work, or such shorter period of notice as mutually agreed between the Employer and the Nurse. When a Regular Nurse reports for work upon the expiration of pregnancy/birth or parental, or adoption leave, the Regular Nurse shall resume work in the position held by the Nurse immediately before the leave began or where that position is eliminated, in a comparable position within the site. A Nurse shall be entitled to the appropriate level on the increment scale and benefits, with no loss of benefits accrued to the commencement of the leave.

13.08 Service and Seniority Continuation

While on pregnancy/birth or parental, or adoption leave, a Nurse shall continue to accrue and accumulate Service and Seniority credits at the same rate as before the leave for the duration of the leave and the Nurse's Service and Seniority shall be deemed to be continuous.

13.09 Group Benefit Plan Continuation

While a Nurse is on pregnancy/birth or parental, or adoption leave, the Employer shall permit the Nurse to continue participation in eligible benefit plans. The Nurse shall be responsible to pay both the Employer and the Nurse's shares of the premium costs for maintaining such coverage for which the Nurse is eligible during the period of leave.

13.10 Special Leave - Birth

Where a Nurse's spouse gives birth to a child, the Nurse shall be granted special leave without loss of regular pay up to a maximum of sixteen (16) scheduled hours during the confinement of the mother. This leave may be divided into periods and granted on separate days.

13.11 Special Leave - Adopted Child

Special leave with pay up to a maximum of sixteen (16) scheduled hours shall be granted to a Nurse when an adopted child arrives in the Nurse's home. This leave may be divided into periods and granted on separate days.

13.12 Bridging of Service

A Regular Nurse with more than three (3) years Service may terminate **their** employment as a result of a decision to raise a child and if re-employed with the Employer shall retain service recognition provided that:

- (a) The Nurse must advise the Employer in writing that the reason for the termination of employment is to raise a child.
- (b) If the Nurse is re-employed as a Regular Nurse within two (2) years of **their** termination date, **they** will have the previous Service with the Employer recognized as at the date of termination for the purposes of placement on the appropriate level on the increment scale as set out in Article 8.00 and vacation accrual rate as set out in Article 10.00 (a), (b), and (c).
- (c) No Service, Seniority, or benefits will accumulate during the period of termination to raise a child. Seniority shall be counted up to the leave and after the leave.

- (d) The Nurse cannot have been employed by any other employer for anytime during this period. If so employed the Nurse shall not be entitled to the benefits of this provision.
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ARTICLE 14 - GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION

14.00 A grievance shall be a difference of interpretation of this Agreement or an alleged violation concerning the meaning, application or administration of this Agreement. Every grievance shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures set out in this Article.

Step 1

When a Nurse has a grievance **they** may, within seven (7) working days of the discovery or occurrence of the incident giving rise to the grievance, first discuss the grievance with **their** immediate management supervisor who shall provide **them** with an answer within seven (7) working days.

Step 2

Should the verbal answer given by the immediate management supervisor not be acceptable to the grievor, the grievance shall be submitted in writing to the Director of Nursing Services or designate within seven (7) working days. The Director of Nursing Services or designate shall give a decision in writing within seven (7) working days of receipt of the grievance.

Step 3

If the decision of the Director of Nursing Services or designate is not acceptable to the grievor, the grievance shall be referred to the Union; and, if supported by the Union, shall be referred to the Administrator or designate within seven (7) working days of the receipt of the grievance. The Administrator or designate shall convene a meeting as soon as reasonably possible with the Union if requested to do so by either party. The Administrator or designate shall reply in writing within seven (7) working days of the grievance meeting.

If the decision of the Administrator or designate is not acceptable to the Union, the Union shall notify the Administrator or designate in writing within fifteen (15) working days that the grievance will be proceeding to arbitration.

14.01 For the purpose of Article 14, "working day" excludes Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

14.02 Termination of Employment

A Nurse who has been dismissed may file a grievance directly at the third (3rd) step of the grievance procedure within ten (10) days of the notification of the dismissal to a Labour Relations Representative of the Union.

14.03 Policy or Group Grievance

Where a dispute involving a question of general application or interpretation occurs, or the Union has a grievance, Steps 1 and 2 may be by-passed.

14.04 Employer Grievance

The Employer may institute a grievance by delivering the same in writing to the President of the Local Union and the President shall answer such grievance in writing within five working (5) days. If the answer is not acceptable to the Employer, the Employer may, within ten (10) working days from the day the President gives **their** answer, give ten (10) working days notice to the President of the Local Union of its intention to refer the dispute to arbitration.

14.05 Arbitration - Single Arbitrator

In the event that a grievance is submitted to arbitration, the case shall be heard by a single Arbitrator.

14.06 Selection of Single Arbitrator

In the case of a single arbitrator, the Party with the grievance shall provide the name of its proposed single arbitrator to the other Party within 30 days of the referral to arbitration. The responding Party shall respond within 30 days of its receipt of such name by indicating its acceptance or rejection of the single Arbitrator, and if it is rejected, its suggestion for a single Arbitrator. If the Parties cannot agree on a single Arbitrator, within this 60 day period either Party can request that the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education appoint an Arbitrator to hear and decide the grievance.

14.07 Arbitration - Termination

In the case of a dismissal of a Nurse, as set out in Article 14.02, the Union shall, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the notice of intention to refer the dispute to arbitration, suggest the name of a single Arbitrator to the Employer.

Within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of such notice, the Employer shall respond by indicating its acceptance or rejection of the Arbitrator, and if it is rejected, its suggestion for a single Arbitrator.

If the Parties cannot agree on a single Arbitrator within thirty (30) days of the first notice suggesting the name of a single Arbitrator, either Party can request that the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education appoint an Arbitrator to hear and decide the grievance.

14.08 The single Arbitrator shall render a decision in as short a time as possible.

14.09 The remuneration of the single arbitrator is to be in accordance with the provisions of the *Trade Union Act*.

14.10 Arbitration awards shall be final and binding as provided in the *Trade Union Act*. An Arbitrator may not alter, modify or amend any part of this Agreement, but shall have the power to modify or set aside any penalty of discharge, suspension or discipline imposed by the Employer on a Nurse.

14.11 All time limits in the grievance and arbitration procedure are mandatory. However, the above-mentioned time limits may be extended in individual cases by the consent in writing of both Parties to the Agreement. Failure to meet any such time limits, or time limits as extended by consent in writing by both Parties to this Agreement, shall result in the grievance being deemed to be abandoned.

14.12 Pre Hearing Disclosure

The Arbitrator has the power to order pre-hearing disclosure of relevant documents at the request of one party to the Arbitration with notice to the other affected Party.

14.13 Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the Union and the Employer from mutually agreeing to settle a dispute by means other than those described in the grievance and arbitration procedures. **If either party requests and the parties agree, the parties shall attempt to resolve grievances with the assistance of the Grievance Mediation process provided by the Conciliation and Mediation Services, Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration.**

ARTICLE 15 - STAFF DEVELOPMENT

15.00 Letter of Appointment

At the time of hire, or upon change in status, each Nurse shall be provided in writing, with the Nurse's status as a Regular Nurse; the Nurse's placement on the increment scale; and where the Nurse is in a Regular or Temporary Position, information describing the Nurse's position with the Employer, including the designation as to **their** percentage of Full-Time hours.

Position Descriptions

15.01 A Nurse shall have access to a copy of **their** current position descriptions.

15.02 The Employer will endeavour to ensure that position descriptions are reviewed and revised where necessary.

15.03 All revised position descriptions shall be provided to the Union representatives of the Union Management Consultation Committee within fifteen (15) days of revision.

15.04 All information received by the Employer regarding workshops, seminars, etc. will be screened by the Employer and all pertinent information posted on bulletin boards.

15.05 Required Education

- (a) The Employer shall provide and fund any Employer required training/education for a Nurse.
- (b) The Employer will make every effort to arrange for the presentation of the required training/education during a Nurse's scheduled hours of work.
- (c) Any time spent in such training or educational sessions shall be considered time worked but will be paid at the regular hourly rate of the Nurse.
- (d) If the Employer permits, a Nurse may bank the hours earned in paragraph (c). Any banked hours shall be taken at a mutually agreed time.
- (e) The Nurse shall be reimbursed for authorized costs related to registration fees, textbook costs and course fees. Other related costs for travel, lodging and meals will be reimbursed in accordance with the Employer's travel policy.

15.06 Voluntary Continuous Learning

- (a) The Employer and the Nurses recognize the importance of continuous learning and to that end, education programs shall be identified by the Employer in consultation with the Nurses and the Nurses will make every reasonable attempt to participate in these voluntary education programs.
- (b) The Employer will arrange for the presentation of the voluntary education programs in such a way as to maximize availability to the Nurses and minimize cost and disruption to the Nurse and the Employer.

15.07 Technological Change

The Employer undertakes to notify a Labour Relations Representative of the Union in advance, of any technological changes which the Employer has decided to introduce which will impact on the Bargaining Unit.

ARTICLE 16 – STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY

16.00 The Employer and the Union shall comply with the provisions of the Nova Scotia *Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations* and *Safer Needles in Healthcare Workplaces Act*.

16.01 Participation in Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

A Nurse who is a member of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee is entitled to time off from work without loss of regular pay and benefits, as is necessary to attend meetings of the Committee, to take any training programs prescribed by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and Regulations, or as determined necessary by the Committee, and to carry out the Nurse's functions as a member of the Committee. Time spent by the Nurse in these activities shall be considered to be time worked at straight time rates.

16.02 Nurse Safety and Security Measures

The Employer shall make reasonable provisions in respect to the health and safety of Nurses during their hours of employment. The Union and the Employer shall co-operate to the fullest extent possible towards the prevention of accidents and in reasonable promotion of health and safety of Nurses through the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. **The Employer recognises the importance of preventing and rectifying abusive situations in the workplace.**

16.03 Right to Refuse Work and Consequences of Refusal

- (a) Any Nurse may refuse to do any act at the Nurse's place of employment where the Nurse has reasonable grounds for believing that the act is likely to endanger the Nurse's health or safety or the health or safety of any other person until:
 - (i) the Employer has taken remedial action to the satisfaction of the Nurse;
 - (ii) the committee has investigated the matter and unanimously advised the Nurse to return to work; or
 - (iii) an officer appointed under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* has investigated the matter and has advised the Nurse to return to work.
- (b) Where a Nurse exercises the Nurse's right to refuse to work pursuant to Article 16.03(a), the Nurse shall:
 - (i) immediately report it to the supervisor;
 - (ii) where the matter is not remedied to the Nurse's satisfaction, report it to the committee or the representative, if any; and
 - (iii) where the matter is not remedied to the Nurse's satisfaction after the

Nurse has reported pursuant to Article 16.03(b)(i) and (ii), report it to the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Labour.

- (c) At the option of the Nurse, the Nurse who refuses to do any act pursuant to Article 16.03(a) may accompany an Occupational Health and Safety officer or the committee or representative, if any, on a physical inspection of the workplace, or part thereof, being carried out for the purpose of ensuring others understand the reasons for the refusal.
- (d) Notwithstanding Subsection 50 (8) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, a Nurse who accompanies an Occupational Health and Safety officer of the Department of Labour, the committee or a representative, as provided in Article 16.03(c), shall be compensated in accordance with Article 16.03(g), but the compensation shall not exceed that which would otherwise have been payable for the Nurse's regular or scheduled working hours.
- (e) Subject to this Agreement, and Article 16.03(c), where a Nurse refuses to do work pursuant to Article 16.03(a), the Employer may reassign the Nurse to other work and the Nurse shall accept the reassignment until the Nurse is able to return to work pursuant to Article 16.03(a).
- (f) Where a Nurse is reassigned to other work pursuant to Article 16.03 (e), the Employer shall pay the Nurse the same wages or salary and grant the Nurse the same benefits as would have been received had the Nurse continued in the Nurse's normal work.
- (g) Where a Nurse has refused to work pursuant to Article 16.03(a) and has not been reassigned to other work pursuant to Article 16.03 (e), the Employer shall, until Article 16.03 (a)(i), (ii) or (iii) is met, pay the Nurse the same wages or salary and grant the Nurse the same benefits as would have been received had the Nurse continued to work.
- (h) A reassignment of work pursuant to Article 16.03(e) is not a discriminatory act pursuant to Section 45 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- (i) A Nurse may not, pursuant to this Article, refuse to use or operate a machine or thing or to work in a place where:
 - (i) the refusal puts the life, health or safety of another person directly in danger; or
 - (ii) the danger referred to in Article 16.03 (a) is inherent in the work of the Nurse.

16.04 Restriction on Assignment of Work Where Refusal

~~Where a Nurse exercises the Nurse's right to refuse to work pursuant to Article 16.03(a), no Nurse shall be assigned to do that work until the matter has been dealt with under that Article, unless the Nurse to be so assigned has been advised of:~~

- (a) the refusal by another Nurse;
- (b) the reason for the refusal; and
- (c) the Nurse's rights pursuant to Article 16.03.

16.05 The Union and the Employer recognize that a modified work program is a process which gives structure and organization to the activity of returning injured Nurses to the work place as soon as possible after an accident for which Workers Compensation was paid. The Union and the Nurses agree to participate in return to work efforts implemented by the Employer.

16.06 Injury on Duty - WCB

- (a) Unless a Nurse specifically asks the Employer in writing at the time of the claim not to pay **them** any supplement amount from the accumulated sick leave credits of the Nurse, where a Nurse is being compensated under the *Workers' Compensation Act*, the Employer shall pay an Employer WCB payment supplement to the Nurse to the extent of the pre injury biweekly pay of the Nurse while maximizing the amount payable from the WCB. It is the intent of the Parties that in no circumstance shall the Nurse receive an increase of income while in receipt of WCB with the exception of increments and pay increases. When this Employer supplement is being paid, the Employer shall deduct from the Nurse's sick leave credits an equivalent number of sick leave hours as were paid in the supplement. When a Nurse's sick leave credits are exhausted, the Nurse shall be paid only the Workers' Compensation Benefits Allowance.
- (b) Where a Nurse is being compensated under the *Workers' Compensation Act*, the Nurse shall continue to accrue up to a year's maximum vacation credits.

16.07 Sick Leave while waiting for Workers' Compensation Benefits

- (a) An illness or injury for which Workers' Compensation is payable shall not be deemed to be sick leave except for the supplement as provided in Article 16.06 (a).
- (b) A Regular Full-Time or Part-Time Nurse who is unable to attend work for greater than one pay period due to workplace illness or injury and who is

awaiting approval of a claim for Workers' Compensation benefits may have the Employer provide payment equivalent to the benefits **they** would earn under the *Workers Compensation Act* providing the Nurse is able to establish, satisfactory to the Employer, that the illness or injury prevents the Nurse from working and the Nurse has sufficient sick leave credits.

- (c) In such case, the Nurse must provide a written undertaking to the Employer and the required notification to the WCB that the initial payment(s) from the WCB is to be provided directly to the Employer on behalf of the Nurse, up to the level of the payment advanced by the Employer.

16.08 WCB and Return to Work

Where a Nurse has returned to work after being absent for injury on duty for which Worker's Compensation Benefits are not payable, and where the absence due to injury on duty was for two days or less after the day of the injury, the Nurse shall receive an amount equal to regular pay from accumulated sick leave credits for the period in which the Nurse was unable to work as a result of the Nurse's injury on duty.

16.09 Point of Care Risk Assessment

Before each resident interaction, the Nurse shall complete a 'Point of Care Risk Assessment' (PCRA) to determine the risk of exposure and appropriate Routine Practices and Additional Precautions required for safe care. A PCRA should be performed even if the patient has been placed on Additional Precautions as additional PPE may be required.

Protective devices and other equipment necessary to protect Nurses from injury or health hazards shall be provided by the Employer and Nurses shall be required to use them. This may include but is not limited to gloves, mask, face protection, gowns, and respiratory protection.

ARTICLE 17 - PERSONAL PROPERTY

- 17.00** The Employer agrees that in a case where damage is done by a resident to a prescribed health device (such as eye glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures) belonging to a Nurse, the Employer will reimburse the Nurse for the actual replacement or repair cost of the damaged property. Where damage is done by a resident to other personal property (such as a watch) belonging to a Nurse, the Employer will reimburse the Nurse for the reasonable cost to replace or repair the damaged property. Such damage must be reported at the time of the incident with full details provided in the incident report. This provision shall only apply to personal property which the employee would reasonably have in **their** possession during the performance of **their** duty.

ARTICLE 18 - PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION

18.00 The Employer and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination or harassment on prohibited grounds contrary to the *Human Rights Act* including age, race, colour, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, physical disability, mental disability, illness or disease, ethnic, national or aboriginal origin, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression or activity or membership in a trade association.

ARTICLE 19 – RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE, PENSION PLAN, RETENTION BONUS AND, RETIREE INCENTIVE

19.00 Retirement Allowance

Effective date of signing, a Nurse with a minimum of ten (10) years of service with the Employer who retires in accordance with the provisions of the Employer's Pension Plan or the Canada Pension Plan shall be entitled to the payment of the sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) per year of service to a maximum of fifteen thousand (\$15,000).

19.01 (a) NSHEPP Pension Plan

All members of each Bargaining Unit represented by the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union shall be members of the NSHEPP Pension Plan, subject to the eligibility provisions of the NSHEPP Pension Plan.

(b) Work After Retirement

The Employer shall advise all Nurses who are seeking retirement about the possibility of returning to work as a Casual Nurse or a Regular Part-Time Nurse while at the same time being in receipt of pension benefits in accordance with provisions of the NSHEPP Pension Plan and the Portability provisions of Article 21 of this Collective Agreement.

19.02 Optional Retirement Allowance Payout

(a) Notwithstanding Article 19 and the Public Services Sustainability (2015) Act requires the Employer to freeze the years of service used to calculate the amount of the Retirement Allowance, which shall be the years up to March 31, 2015.

(b) Nurses will have the option (on a one time only basis) to obtain an early payout of their Retirement Allowance accrued up to March 31, 2015, regardless of whether they have yet met the threshold of 10 years service or retirement or receive payout on death or retirement in accordance with the provisions of the collective agreement which applied to them as of March 31, 2015.

Nurses who wish to choose an early payout must opt to do so, in writing to the Employer, no later than one month after the Employer sends them notice of their eligibility for an early payout.

19.03 Nurse Retention Bonus

The Employer will provide a Retention Bonus to eligible Nurses who agree to remain employed for the following twelve (12) months. The Retention Bonus shall be equal to two percent (2%) of the gross annual base earnings (exclusive of any premiums). To be eligible a Nurse must be able to retire with an unreduced pension under the terms of the Employer's Pension Plan. The Nurse must apply in writing to participate in the Retention Bonus. A Nurse may apply for and participate in second and subsequent years.

Effective October 31, 2025, the Retention Bonus will increase to 3.0%

19.04 Retiree Recruitment Incentive

The Employer will provide a Recruitment Incentive of **\$750** per **12 month period** to any retired Nurse who, after retirement, agrees to return to work for at least **thirty (30)** "relief" shifts in a 12 month period. The Casual Nurse must pre-apply in writing in order to participate in the Incentive. The **\$750** will be paid to the Nurse after the completion of the minimum **thirty (30)** "relief" shifts. For clarity, the "relief" shifts must be shifts worked on a casual basis and does not include any "relief" shifts worked while holding a regular or temporary position with the Employer. A Nurse will only be eligible for the sum of **\$750** from one long term care Employer in each 12 month period.

In transition, any Nurse who is currently completing the Nurse's recruitment incentive based on the 12 months period, 24 relief shifts and \$500 will have the opportunity to complete the incentive based on the previous language or transition to the new language provided that the Nurse can meet the requirement to work 30 shifts. Thereafter entitlement will be based on the language above. (e.g. if a Nurse is 11 months into the period and has completed 22 shifts, the Nurse will have the option to conclude her entitlement based on the previous language).

ARTICLE 20 – SICK LEAVE AND GROUP BENEFITS

20.00 Sick Leave Benefit

Sick leave is an indemnity benefit and not an acquired right. A Nurse who is absent from a scheduled shift on approved sick leave **because the Nurse is unable to perform their duties because of illness or injury** shall only be entitled to sick leave with pay if the Nurse is not otherwise receiving pay for that day, and providing the Nurse has sufficient sick leave credits.

20.01 Sick Leave Pay

A Nurse granted sick leave shall be paid for the period of such leave at **their** regular hourly rate of pay and the number of hours thus paid shall be deducted from the accumulated sick leave credits of the Nurse.

20.02 Sick Leave Credits

Paid sick leave shall accumulate at the rate of one (1) hour of sick leave for every fifteen (15) hours worked effective the first day of employment. The maximum amount of accumulation shall be one thousand two hundred (1200) hours. Nurses can accumulate but cannot use sick leave credits during their probationary period.

20.03 Annual Statement

The Employer shall provide each Nurse with a statement of sick leave credits at least once per annum and verbally upon request within a reasonable period of time.

20.04 Evidence of Illness

The Employer reserves the right to require any Nurse claiming sick leave to produce evidence of illness satisfactory to the Employer.

20.05 Union Representation

A Nurse has the right to be accompanied by a representative of the Union in a meeting with an Employer to discuss **their** ability to attend work regularly due to their health. The Nurse shall be advised of this right prior to the scheduling of a meeting.

20.06 Sick Leave Medical/Dental; Family; Emergency

Nurses with sufficient sick leave credits shall be allowed paid leave of absence of up to a total of forty (40) hours per annum (pro-rated for Part-Time Nurses based on regular hours paid) debited against sick leave credits in order to:

- (a) engage in and facilitate the Nurse's personal preventative medical or dental care. Nurses shall advise their immediate supervisor when they become aware of their need for personal medical, dental care for a shift the Nurse is scheduled to work. Such leave shall not be unreasonably denied.
- (b) attend to emergencies where:
 - (i) the Nurse's own medical or dental health is at an immediate and serious risk;
 - (ii) a member of the Nurse's immediate family, as defined in Article 4.045 who has become ill or disabled, in order to make alternate

care arrangements where the Nurse's personal attention is required and which could not be serviced by others or attended to by the Nurse outside of **their** assigned shifts;

- (iii) there is a critical condition (e.g. Fire, Flood) (excluding conditions included in Article 9.08) which requires the Nurse's personal attention which could not be serviced by others or attended to by the Nurse outside of **their** assigned shifts.

The Employer may require verification of the condition claimed.

- (c) attend to Medical and Dental appointments for their Immediate Family. Nurses shall endeavour to arrange for such appointments during off duty hours.

20.07 Return to Work from Sick Leave

A Nurse is expected to report to work for all scheduled shifts unless **they are** on an authorized leave. Where a Nurse has been on an authorized sick leave for a period of two (2) consecutive months or longer, the Nurse must provide a minimum of two (2) weeks notice of **their** intended date to return to work, except where a shorter period of notice is mutually agreed between the Nurse and the Employer.

20.08 Confidentiality Of Health Information

- (a) A Nurse shall not be required to provide **their** manager/supervisor specific information regarding the nature of **their** illness or injury during a period of absence. However, the Employer may require the Nurse to provide such information to persons responsible for occupational health.
- (b) These persons shall not release any information to the manager/supervisor of the Nurse except the duration or expected duration of the absence, the fitness of the Nurse to return to work, any limitations associated with the fitness of the Nurse to return to work, and whether the illness or injury is bona fide.
- (c) As an exception, where the person responsible for occupational health is also the Nurse's manager/supervisor, the specific information regarding the nature of **their** illness or injury during a period of absence shall be provided and may only be used in accordance with the occupational health responsibilities of the manager/supervisor. Information regarding the duration or expected duration of the absence, the fitness of the Nurse to return to work, any limitations associated with the fitness of the Nurse to return to work, and whether the illness or injury is bona fide may be relied on by the manager/supervisor with the administrative responsibilities of the position.

- (d) The Employer shall store health information separately and access thereto shall be given only to the persons directly responsible for the administration of occupational health.

20.09 Payment For Certificates And Examinations

Where a Nurse is required by the Employer to submit detailed medical certificates or reports pursuant to a required medical examination, the Employer shall be responsible for paying the direct cost of any such examinations, medical certification forms or reports, which are not covered by medical insurance.

- 20.10** The Employer agrees to the pay sixty-five percent (65%) of the cost of the premiums for Atlantic Blue Cross Care or similar health care coverage and the employee agrees to contribute the remaining thirty-five percent (35%). Individual participation in the plan is optional. Participation in the plan is subject to the eligibility requirements of the plan.

20.11 Sick Leave and LTD -

Nurses on Long Term Disability benefits who have sick leave credits at the time the Nurse ceases to be in receipt of Long Term Disability benefits shall retain such sick leave credits for their use in the event the Nurse returns to work with the Employer.

20.12 LTD Program

- (a) Terms and conditions for participation in the LTD Program as well as the payment of benefits shall be as determined by the LTD Program.
- (b) Should a Nurse in receipt of Long Term Disability benefits cease to be disabled, upon providing reasonable notice of the Nurse's intended date to return to work, the Nurse shall have a right to return to the Nurse's former or equivalent position with the Employer at not less than the same increment level. The Employer reserves the right to require a medical evaluation by a qualified medical practitioner in order to assist in determining the Nurse's suitability for reinstatement.
- (c) Nurses in receipt of Long Term Disability benefits shall not be entitled to continue accumulation of paid sick leave benefits, paid vacation benefits or paid holiday benefits under the Collective Agreement but shall retain any previously accumulated sick leave credits for their use in the event they return to work. Such Nurses may claim accumulated paid vacation and holiday benefits at any time.
- (d) During the elimination period and while in receipt of Long Term Disability benefits, the Nurse may continue to participate in the Benefit Plans

provided the Nurse agrees to pay the employee share of the benefit premium contribution.

- (e) The Employer shall only provide the Employer share of the premium contribution for a period of not longer than two (2) years following the commencement of the absence.
- (f) If the Nurse remains in receipt of Long Term Disability benefits after the two (2) years, the Nurse may continue to participate in the Benefit Plans, provided the Nurse pays 100% of the cost of the participation (both the Employer and Nurse portion). Continued participation shall be subject to the eligibility provisions of the respective Benefit Plans.

20.13 The Employer and the Union agree that should the LTD Program be terminated, for any reason, the Parties agree to negotiate the terms of a replacement plan.

ARTICLE 21 - PORTABILITY OF BENEFITS

21.00 Nurse Mobility

In the event an Employer rehires a Nurse to a regular position within six (6) months of the Nurse leaving or an Employer hires a Nurse to a Regular position to commence work within six (6) months of the Nurse leaving employment from a position in any other bargaining unit represented by the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union in the Province of Nova Scotia, the Nurse shall have Service with the previous Employer recognized for vacation accumulation entitlement, retirement allowance, placement on the increment scale (and advancement) and Seniority with the hiring Employer. Qualifying periods under the Benefits Plans of the hiring Employer will be as set out in the Plans.

21.01 Canadian Nurse Portability

In the event that the Employer hires a Nurse to a regular position to commence work within six (6) months of the Nurse leaving employment from a position in any other bargaining unit represented by a member of the Canadian Federation of Nurses' Unions (including but not limited to British Columbia Nurses Union (BCNU), United Nurses of Alberta (UNA), Saskatchewan Union of Nurses' (SUN), Manitoba Nurses Union (MNU), Ontario Nurses Association (ONA), New Brunswick Nurses Union (NBNU), Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses Union (NLNU), and Prince Edward Island Nurses Union (PEINU)), shall be credited with equivalent Seniority as at the time of termination from the other bargaining unit.

21.02 In the event that the above noted Nurse has the same Seniority date as a current Bargaining Unit member(s), the Nurse who is porting **their** a Seniority date shall be placed on the Seniority list below the other pre-established Bargaining Unit member(s).

ARTICLE 22 - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

22.00 ~~Four (4) weeks written notice of resignation shall be given regarding resignation of employment by the Nurse, unless mutually satisfactory arrangements are made otherwise. Accrued vacation, holiday and overtime benefits shall be paid out on the day of resignation or on the next regular pay day where the resignation day and pay day are not the same.~~

When a Nurse resigns, is discharged, retires or dies, the Nurse or the estate shall receive payment in proportion to any unused vacation leave credits, holiday leave credits and overtime lieu time credits, computed as of the last day of employment. The Employer is entitled to withhold any monies owed to the Employer from any accrued benefits.

22.01 In the event of suspension or termination of a Nurse's employment by the Employer, the Nurse shall be given written reasons for the action taken. If this procedure is not followed the action taken shall not be void but the time limits under Article 14 shall not commence until the reasons are given.

22.02 It shall be a violation of this Agreement, subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures herein, if a Nurse is suspended or disciplined, or has been discharged by the Employer without just cause.

22.03 If a Nurse is dismissed or suspended for cause, the Employer will advise a Labour Relations Representative of the Union in writing as soon as reasonably possible.

22.04 When a Nurse is to be advised in person of a disciplinary action the Employer shall advise the Nurse of the right to elect to have a representative of the Local Union at the meeting. The Employer will give the Nurse and the Local union Representative reasonable advance notice of the meeting. The Employer will be notified prior to the meeting, of the Nurse's intention to be accompanied by a Local union Representative. Where circumstances warrant an immediate meeting, the meeting may proceed should a representative not be readily available. In the case of a suspension or termination, the union representation may be provided by a Labour Relations Representative of the Union.

22.05 Disciplinary Record

- (a) A Nurse who has been subject to disciplinary action other than suspension may, after twenty-four (24) months of continuous Service from the date the disciplinary measure was invoked, request in writing that the performance file be cleared of any record of the disciplinary action. Such request shall be granted provided the Nurse's file does not contain any further record of disciplinary action during the twenty-four (24) month period, of which the

Nurse is aware. The Employer shall confirm in writing to the Nurse that such action has been effected.

- (b) A Nurse who has been subject to a period of paid or unpaid suspension, may after five (5) years of continuous Service from the date of the suspension request in writing that the performance file be cleared of any record of suspension. Such request shall be granted provided the Nurse's file does not contain any further record of disciplinary action during the five (5) year period, of which the Nurse is aware. The Employer shall confirm in writing to the Nurse that such action has been effected.

ARTICLE 23 - PARKING

23.00 As long as there are parking spaces available for visitors and management on Oakwood Terrace property, the Employer shall continue to provide free parking to the Nurses.

ARTICLE 24 - ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

24.00 Without detracting from the existing rights and obligations of the Parties recognized in other provisions of this Agreement, the Employer and the Union agree to cooperate in encouraging Nurses afflicted with alcoholism or drug dependency to undergo a coordinated program directed to the objective of their rehabilitation. Provided Nurses have sufficient sick leave credits, they shall be eligible for sick leave benefits for the treatment program.

24.01 When a Nurse is required to submit to random body fluid testing as part of a settlement agreement between the Employer, the Union, and a Nurse, the Employer shall pay the costs of such testing.

ARTICLE 25 - PERFORMANCE REVIEWS AND EMPLOYEE FILES

Performance Appraisal

25.00 Where the Employer maintains a performance appraisal program, such appraisals shall be discussed with the Nurse. The Nurse shall have twenty-four (24) hours to assess the evaluation and shall have the opportunity to sign and comment on the evaluation.

25.01 The Employer agrees not to introduce as evidence in a hearing relating to a disciplinary action any document from the "*personnel*" file of a Nurse the existence of which the Nurse was not made aware of at the time of filing.

25.02 Each Nurse is entitled to have access to the Nurse's personnel file during normal business hours. In such case the Nurse shall make an appointment with the

Employer. The Nurse shall have the right to make a copy of materials on the Nurse's personnel file, except that references or appraisals from outside the Employer may not be shown to the Nurse.

ARTICLE 26 – WEEKEND NURSE

26.00 In the event that the Employer wishes to introduce a Weekend Nurse position, the provisions of the Acute Care Collective Agreement shall form the basis of the applicable position for this Employer.

ARTICLE 27 - LETTERS OF AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

27.00 Letters of Agreement and Memoranda of Agreement that were in effect between the Parties on the date of signing and which are not appended and signed within six (6) months of the signing of the Collective Agreement are deemed replaced and therefore redundant following the signing of the Collective Agreement.

27.01 Letters of Agreement and Memoranda of Agreement that remain in effect, are detailed in Appendix "C".

ARTICLE 28 – UNION MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

28.00 The Union and the Employer agree to *establish/maintain* a Union Management Consultation Committee which shall be comprised of two representatives of the Local Union and the Local Union President and two representatives of the Employer and the Director. A person designated by the Union and the Employer shall alternate as the Chairperson.

28.01 The committee shall meet no less than three (3) times per year. Either party may request additional meetings on two (2) weeks notice in which case the Parties shall schedule a meeting at a mutually agreeable time.

28.02 Topics for discussion may be agreed upon by the Committee and the agenda shall be circulated one (1) week prior to the meeting. By mutual agreement, items may be discussed if a matter arose after the agenda has been finalized.

28.03 The Union Management Consultation Committee shall meet to discuss matters of concern between the Parties which may include the following:

1. Staffing
2. Orientation
3. Workload
4. Scheduling
5. Transfers
6. Reassignment

7. Scheduling difficulties created by short-term and long-term absences
8. Layoffs
9. Correcting conditions causing grievances and misunderstanding but not any matter that has been referred to the grievance and arbitration process

28.04 Minutes are to be drafted by the person appointed to act as secretary to the committee. The draft minutes shall be typed and circulated by the Employer not later than three (3) calendar weeks following the meeting.

28.05 The committee shall be responsible for:

1. defining problems
2. developing viable solutions to such problems
3. recommending the proposed solutions to the appropriate Employer authority

28.06 No Nurse shall suffer a loss of regular pay and benefits while attending the Union Management Consultation Committee.

ARTICLE 29 - WORKLOAD

- 29.00 (a) A Nurse who believes that adequate and safe care of residents cannot be provided because of that Nurse's workload, shall bring the matter to the attention of the immediate Supervisor. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the Nurse may file a written report (Clinical Capacity Form) which is attached at Appendix "D" which shall be submitted to the Employer.
- (b) Failing resolution of the issue, the Nurse may refer the matter to the Union Management Consultation Committee as set out in Article 28.

ARTICLE 30 - RESIDENT SAFETY

30.00 A Nurse who believes that the Nurse cannot safely care for residents may within five (5) days of the occurrence of the incident or the situation, file a report with the Director of Nursing Services or designate. This report may also be discussed by the Union Management Consultation Committee. The report form shall be supplied by the Employer.

ARTICLE 31 - NO STRIKE / NO LOCKOUT


31.00 It is agreed there shall be no strikes, work stoppages, or slowdowns by a Nurse and/or the Union; and/or no lockouts by the Employer during the time this Agreement is in effect.

ARTICLE 32 - TERM OF AGREEMENT

32.00 This Collective Agreement shall be for the period commencing **November 1, 2020, and ending October 31, 2025**, and shall remain in effect from year to year thereafter unless one of the Parties hereto notifies the other in writing within a period of not less than sixty (60) working days prior to the automatic renewal date of its intention to revise or amend this Agreement or to conclude a new Agreement.

The Parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the 21st day of **February**, 2024.

FOR THE EMPLOYER:



Anthony Taylor



Michelle Langille

FOR THE UNION:



Jahet Hazelton



Chris Albrecht

APPENDIX "A"

Oakwood Terrace Wage Scales

(Hourly rate determined by 2080 hours)

Classification	Expired Rate Hourly	Expired Rate Annual	% Increase: 1.50%		% Increase: 1.50%		% Increase: 3.00%		% Increase: 3.00%		% Increase: 2.00%	
			Nov.1-20 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-20 Annual Rate	Nov.1-21 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-21 Annual Rate	Nov.1-22 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-22 Annual Rate	Nov.1-23 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-23 Annual Rate	Nov.1-24 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-24 Annual Rate
RN-1	\$28,7086	\$69,714	\$29,1392	\$69,610	\$29,5763	\$69,519	\$30,4636	\$69,364	\$31,5344	\$69,592	\$32,1651	\$69,903

Classification	Expired Rate Hourly	Expired Rate Annual	% Increase: 1.50%		% Increase: 1.50%		% Increase: 3.00%		% Increase: 0.50%		Wage Adjustment		2 Additional Steps (2.5% & 2.5%)		% Increase: 3.00%		% Increase: 2.00%	
			Nov.1-20 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-20 Annual Rate	Nov.1-21 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-21 Annual Rate	Nov.1-22 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-22 Annual Rate	Oct.31-23 Hourly Rate	Oct.31-23 Annual Rate	Nov.1-23 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-23 Annual Rate	Nov.1-23 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-23 Annual Rate	Nov.1-23 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-23 Annual Rate	Nov.1-24 Hourly Rate	Nov.1-24 Annual Rate
RN-2	\$33,0101	\$68,661	\$33,5053	\$69,691	\$34,0079	\$70,736	\$35,0281	\$72,858	\$35,2032	\$73,223	\$36,1876	\$75,270	\$36,1876	\$75,270	\$37,2732	\$77,528	\$38,0187	\$79,079
Staff Nurse	\$33,9879	\$70,694	\$34,4978	\$71,755	\$35,0153	\$72,832	\$36,0658	\$75,017	\$36,2461	\$75,392	\$37,2305	\$77,439	\$37,2305	\$77,439	\$38,3474	\$79,763	\$39,1143	\$81,358
	\$35,0882	\$72,983	\$35,6145	\$74,078	\$36,1487	\$75,189	\$37,2332	\$77,445	\$37,4194	\$77,832	\$38,4038	\$79,880	\$38,4038	\$79,880	\$39,5559	\$82,276	\$40,3470	\$83,922
	\$36,3109	\$75,527	\$36,8555	\$76,659	\$37,4083	\$77,809	\$38,5305	\$80,143	\$38,7232	\$80,544	\$39,7076	\$82,592	\$39,7076	\$82,592	\$40,8988	\$85,070	\$41,7168	\$86,771
	\$37,5765	\$78,160	\$38,1402	\$79,332	\$38,7123	\$80,522	\$39,8737	\$82,937	\$40,0731	\$83,352	\$41,0575	\$85,400	\$41,0575	\$85,400	\$42,2892	\$87,962	\$43,1350	\$89,721
	\$38,8917	\$80,895	\$39,4751	\$82,108	\$40,0672	\$83,340	\$41,2692	\$85,840	\$41,4755	\$86,269	\$42,4599	\$88,317	\$42,4599	\$88,317	\$43,7337	\$90,966	\$44,6084	\$92,765
															\$44,8270	\$93,240	\$45,7235	\$95,105
															\$45,9477	\$95,571	\$46,8667	\$97,483
Year 25	\$40,2531	\$83,726	\$40,8559	\$84,982	\$41,4698	\$86,257	\$42,7139	\$88,845	\$42,9275	\$89,289	\$43,9119	\$91,337	\$43,9119	\$91,337	\$47,5559	\$98,916	\$48,5070	\$100,895

APPENDIX "B"

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - EDUCATION PREMIUMS

A Nurse who is qualified for more than one education premium shall only receive the highest education premium for which the Nurse qualifies in Group A. A Nurse may also qualify for a premium in Group B. A Nurse may also qualify for either or both of the premiums in Group C.

Education premiums shall be pro-rated for Part-Time and Casual Nurses based on regular hours paid. That is to say that the annual amount will be divided by 2080 hours and will be payable on each bi-weekly pay based on regular hours paid which shall include the straight time hourly equivalent of overtime hours worked to a maximum of the Education Premium entitlement for a Full-Time Position.

EDUCATION PREMIUMS - GROUP A

(a) Post-Graduate Program (Between 450 hours and 900 hours)

Upon the Employer's receipt of proof of a Nurse's successful completion of a recognized program which has been established by the Nurse to be a minimum of 450 hours (as per the official course description which may include course hours, lab hours, clinical hours and/or independent study hours) and where the course content is directly related to the Nurse's position, the following premium will be added to the Nurse's regular annual rate of pay:

: three hundred thirty-three dollars (\$333.00)

(b) Post-Graduate Program (In excess of 900 hours)

Upon the Employer's receipt of proof of a Nurse's successful completion of a recognized program which has been established by the Nurse to be in excess of 900 hours (as per the official course description which may include course hours, lab hours, clinical hours and/or independent study hours) and where the course content is directly related to the Nurse's position, the following premium will be added to the Nurse's regular annual rate of pay:

: six hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$667.00)

(c) B.N. or B.Sc.N.

For any Registered Nurse in the bargaining unit who holds a B.N. or B.Sc.N., the following premium will be added to the Nurse's regular annual rate of pay:

: one thousand four hundred forty-five dollars (\$1445.00)

(d) Masters Degree in Nursing

For any Registered Nurse in the bargaining unit who holds a Masters Degree in Nursing, the following premium will be added to the Nurse's regular annual rate of pay:

: one thousand nine hundred sixty-one dollars (\$1961.00)

CANADIAN NURSE ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION PREMIUM - GROUP B

The following premium will be added to the regular annual pay for any Registered Nurse in the Bargaining Unit who is in receipt of a current certification under the Canadian Nurse Association Certification program and who is employed in a capacity utilizing this training, who submits proof of the certification to the Employer, payable each year the certification is current:

: nine hundred ninety-six dollars (\$996.00)

NURSING PRACTICE AND NURSING LEADERSHIP PREMIUMS - GROUP C

Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership premiums are intended to recognize and encourage Nursing leadership activities and are provided as an alternative to former "Special Units".

To be eligible for either premium, a Nurse must earn seventy (70) points for the Nursing Practice Premium and sixty (60) points for the Nursing Leadership Premium by participating in Employer approved activities. The initial list of these activities along with the relative weight for each is included in this Appendix for illustrative purposes. It is understood that these initial lists are not exhaustive but will guide the Employer in determining relative point values for other approved activities.

In order for a Nurse to qualify for either premiums **they** must attain the required points based on the relative weights assigned to the approved activities. The Nurse must maintain a record of recognized educational or leadership activities completed in the

previous 12 month period. The Nurse must submit written proof of these activities to the Employer by October 31st each year.

A Nurse who qualifies for either premium shall be paid an annual supplement of \$850 each, and shall then be paid as a lump sum payment by December 15 in the year to Nurses who achieve the eligibility for them in accordance with Appendix "B". The premiums shall be prorated for Part-Time and Casual Nurses based on regular hours worked in the previous 12 month period from November 1st to the prior October 31st for the year of eligibility.

A Nurse may qualify for one of the current education premiums, the new CNA premium and either or both of the new Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership Premiums.

NURSING PRACTICE PREMIUM - GROUP C
(For illustrative Purposes)

CERTIFICATION IN A SPECIALTY (25 points)

Defined course of study/evaluation

Not covered by a premium

E.g. Infection Control, Palliative Care, OH&S, Gerontological Nursing, Continuing Care Certificate, PLAR Assessor Course

COURSE IN A SPECIALTY (20 points)

Evaluation/Recertification

National/International standards

E.g. Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementia Care Course, PIECES, CIM

COURSE IN A SPECIALTY (15 points)

Internally/Externally developed

E.g. Gerontological Courses, Foot Care, Assessment of Frail Elderly

COURSE IN A GENERAL SKILL/THEORY (10 points)

E.g. Non-violent crisis intervention, Documentation, Communication, Information Technology

COURSE IN PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (10 points)

E.g. Leadership course, Preceptorship course

WORKSHOP OR CONFERENCE IN A SPECIALTY OR SPECIFIC SKILL/THEORY (10 points)

WORKSHOP OR CONFERENCE IN PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (10 points)

INSERVICE/FACILITY BASED EDUCATION SESSIONS (5 points)

E.g. Lunch and Learn, Journal Club, Ethics Rounds

E-LEARNING (5 points)

E.g. Telehealth, public domain modules

NURSING LEADERSHIP PREMIUM - GROUP C
(For illustrative Purposes)

CATEGORIES:

A. Committee/Task Force Involvement (for Hospital, District, Province, Union, Professional Organization or Association, Agency)

- Chair of a committee/task force that meets 9-12 times per year (20 points)
- Member of a committee/task force that meets 9-12 times per year (15 points)
- Chair of a committee/task force that meets 4-6 times per year (15 points)
- Member of a committee/task force that meets 4-6 times per year (10 points)
- Chair of a committee/task force that meets 1-3 times per year (10 points)
- Member of a committee/task force that meets 1-3 times per year (5 points)
- Telehealth Coordinator

B. Professional Association Involvement

- Maintains an active membership in a Professional Association Special Interest Group (eg Canadian Association of Gerontological Nurses; Canadian Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Canadian Hospital Infection Control Association etc)
- Holds office in a professional nursing organization or special interest: with subheadings for National, Provincial or Local level and further subdivided to recognize if you are President vs a Member of the Executive.

	President	Executive	Member
National	25 points	20 points	10 points
Provincial/Local	20 points	15 points	10 points

C. Publications/Presentations

- Publication in a peer-reviewed professional journal or textbook (25 points)
- Publication in a non-peer-reviewed journal (eg. hospital newsletter, local paper or publication) (10 points)
- Speaker at a National Conference (25 points)
- Speaker at a Provincial Conference (20 points)
- Speaker at a Local Conference (20 points)
- Speaker at a facility-based inservice session (10 points)
- Poster Board Presenter at a National Conference (20 points)
- Poster Board Presenter at a Provincial Conference (15 points)
- Poster Board Presenter at a Local Conference (15 Points)
- Poster Board Presenter at a facility-based Conference (10 points)

D. Research

- Primary Investigator as part of a multi-site study (25 points)
- Co-Investigator as part of a multi-site study (20 points)
- Primary Investigator of a *facility*/unit based research study (15 points)
- Co-Investigator of a *facility*/unit based research study (10 points)
- Develops a unit specific research proposal (5 points)
- Conducts a literature review as part of a research study (5 points)

E. Education

- Enrolled in PhD Program (minimally taking 2 courses per year) (25 points)
- Enrolled in Masters Program (minimally taking 2 courses per year) (20 points)
- Enrolled in Degree Program (minimally taking 2 courses per year) (15 points)
- Instructor-Level Status for designated courses (e.g. BCLS, PIECES, ARDCC, etc) (10 points)

F. Unit Resource/Skill/Content Expert Person

- Provides support/expertise/oversight for education, skills and information needed by colleagues (eg. is a content expert for implementation of medication reconciliation project, elder-friendly, Resident-centred care, Wound and Palliative Care) (20 points)

G. Accepts Additional Leadership Responsibilities

- Project lead for new product evaluation (10 points)
- Researches/benchmarks new procedures (5 points)
- Develops/revises a new policy or procedure (5 points)
- Instructs a designated course at least once per year (10 points)

H. Special Projects

- Involved in a planned endeavour designed and implemented to address a resident, nursing, facility or community health care concern or need. (eg. QI project to improve resident outcomes) (10 – 20 points depending on scope of project)

APPENDIX "C"
LETTERS OF AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #1

Supplementary Leave Credits - Late Career Registered Nurses

Effective April 1, 2008, the Employer will grant paid leave of up to 40 hours per year to a Registered Nurse who is in receipt of the Long Service Increment. Scheduling of such leave shall be done by mutual agreement, however, it may not be taken during the summer vacation or the Christmas Holiday period. Such a Registered Nurse may not carry over such credit hours from one year to the next.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #2

80/20 Late Career Nurses Strategy

The Parties agree that in the event that the Employer introduces a position of "80/20", the Memorandum of Agreement, "80/20" in the Acute Care Collective Agreement provisions shall form the basis for the terms and conditions.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #3

INNOVATIVE SHIFTS

The Parties to this agreement acknowledge the value of creating new and innovative approaches to varied shift lengths and rotations. To that end the Parties agree to encourage individual Nurses, groups of Nurses, and Managers to explore any and all options including such things as Nurses returning after retirement, varied shift lengths, reduced hours and new shift rotations.

1. The Union Representatives of the Union Management Consultation Committee, (UMCC) a Nurse, a group of Nurses, or a manager may make a request for consideration for an innovative shift under this agreement.
2. The request shall be made in writing to the Employer and the Employer will provide a copy of the request to the Union Chair of the UMCC.
3. If approved by the Employer, the proposal shall be referred to the UMCC for its consideration.
4. The request for an innovative shift shall not be unreasonably denied by the Employer or by the Union Representatives of the UMCC.
5. If approved, the details of the proposal shall be incorporated into a memorandum between the Parties.
6. In making their decisions, the Employer and the Union Representatives of the UMCC shall consider factors including the provisions of the Collective Agreement, the operational requirements of the Employer, resident care requirements, and the impact on members of the Bargaining Unit.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #4

REDUCTION IN APPOINTMENT STATUS

The Union and the Employer recognize that Nurses, may, at various points in their employment request a temporary or permanent reduction in hours of work and appointment status.

The Union and the Employer also recognize that requests for voluntary reductions in hours of work and appointment status may impact operational requirements.

1. Accordingly, a Regular Nurse who seeks a temporary or permanent reduction in hours of work and appointment status will seek the approval of the Employer by indicating the amount of reduced hours the Nurse seeks and the duration of such reduced hours. The duration of a temporary reduction in hours must be specified and must not exceed one (1) year.
2. Approval by the Employer shall be discretionary and will ensure that the request will not adversely impact operational requirements of the Employer. Such requests shall not be unreasonably denied.
3. The Employer will notify the Local Union of an approved request. In addition, the Employer will advise the Local Union of either its intention to post the remaining hours or part-time equivalent of full-time hours within a reasonable time frame, pursuant to the provisions of Article 12 or to hold the posting. If the Employer intends to hold the posting, it shall also provide the reason(s) for doing so.
4. The Employer will maintain a record of all reduced positions created and the remaining hours. A copy of such documentation will be forwarded to the Local Union regularly.
5. The Employer may consider a request for an extension of the temporary reduction of hours and appointment status subject to the above noted considerations of operational requirements. The Employer will advise the Local Union if an extension is approved.
6. A Regular Nurse who has requested a temporary or permanent reduction in **their** hours of work and appointment status has status as a Part-time Nurse and the relevant provisions of the collective agreement shall apply.
7. On the date of the return to work from a temporary reduction in hours, or at such earlier or later time as mutually agreed between the requesting

Nurse and the Employer, the requesting Nurse is able to return to **their** previous position and salary without loss of Seniority or Service. Any other Nurse promoted or transferred because of the temporary reduction in hours of work and appointment status shall be returned to their former position or casual status, where applicable, and salary without loss of Seniority or Service.

8. In extraordinary circumstances, the Employer may cancel a temporary reduction in hours with thirty (30) days notice. In the event a temporary reduction is cancelled, the Regular Nurse is able to return to **their** previous position and salary without loss of Seniority or Service. Any other Nurse promoted or transferred because of the temporary reduction in hours of work and appointment status shall be returned to their former position or casual status, where applicable, and salary without loss of Seniority or Service. The Employer will advise the Local Union of the reason(s) for the cancellation.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #5

UNIFORMS

Where the Employer wishes to introduce a standard uniform for Nurses, the Employer shall meet with the Union to establish an MOA. The Acute Care Article 8.13 – Nurse Identity shall form the basis of the MOA.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #6

RE: COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NURSING PRACTICE AND NURSING LEADERSHIP PREMIUMS

WHEREAS the parties recognize the unique nature of the Long Term Care/Community Services sector.

AND WHEREAS the parties want to ensure that the Nurses are able to access training and further education to support their practice and development as leaders in the Long Term Care/Community Services sector.

AND WHEREAS the parties want to ensure that the criteria for Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership premiums reflects the unique skills required by Nurses in the Long Term Care/Community Services sector.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree that in order to adequately consider and explore the eligibility for Nursing Leadership and Practice Premiums in Long Term Care/Community Services sector, a committee will be formed:

- 1. Within 90 days of the signing of the Agreement, the parties agree, subject to ensuring appropriate resources to support the work of the Committee, to establish a Long-Term Care/ Community Services Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership Premiums Provincial Committee.**
- 2. The Committee will be composed of up equal numbers of Employer and Union representation. The Committee may have the assistance of representatives from Health Association Nova Scotia and NSNU Representatives. The Committee will determine its terms of reference and process.**
- 3. The Committee shall, among other things review the following:**
 - (a) The process and timelines currently provided for the submission and review of claims for the Premiums.**
 - (b) The unique skill set that Nurses in the Long Term Care/ Community Services require.**
 - (c) Whether current qualifying criteria for Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership Premiums best supports the development of Nurses in the Long Term Care/ Community Services sectors**

(d) New Opportunities that should be considered for a Nurse to qualify for Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership premiums for Nurses in the Long Term Care/ Community Services Sector.

- 4. The Committee shall complete their review and provide recommendations in writing to the participating Employers in Long-Term Care/ Community Services sector by December 1, 2024. The purpose of the Committee's recommendations will include providing guidance to employers when reviewing and approving the activities submitted by Nurses under the current language and as appropriate, to make recommendations on the process.**
- 5. The Committee is advisory in nature and does not have the authority to bind an Employer or Union but may provide recommendations with respect to the Nursing Practice and Nursing Leadership premiums.**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #7

Filling FTEs of less than 0.4

Whereas the parties support the MOAs on innovative shifts, reduction in appointment status and Hybrid positions but recognize that these opportunities may create fractional FTEs that require coverage by Nurses, the parties agree as follows:

The Employer may at its discretion offer temporary part-time work of less than a 0.4 FTE to qualified Nurses, provided the new position is of the same classification as the Nurse's current position, without posting in order of seniority to permanent part-time Nurses.

Memorandum of Agreement #8

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Reconciliation and Accessibility (EDIRA) in the Workplace Committee

Whereas the Employers and NSNU support the principles of EDIRA as identified in the Health Equity Framework which defines the core concepts of EDIRA as:

- Equity – refers to an approach that ensures everyone has access to the same opportunities.**
- Diversity – is defined as the many ways we are unique and different from one another while distinguishing ourselves as individuals and identifying ourselves as belonging to a group or groups.**
- Inclusion – refers to the intentional, ongoing efforts and actions to ensure that people with different identities actively participate in all aspects of the work of an organization and/or society.**
- Reconciliation – is a process of healing relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledges and redresses past harm.**
- Accessibility – when our environments, services and products and policies are proactively designed and constructed so that people with a disability can fully and equally participate without experiencing barriers.**

And whereas the Employers and NSNU recognize the importance of supporting the goals of EDIRA in the workplace, the parties agree as follows:

- (a) Within 90 days of the signing, and subject to securing appropriate resources to support the Committee, the parties agree to establish a Provincial EDIRA Committee.**
- (b) The Committee will be composed of equal Employer and Union representation from a variety of Participating Employers and NSNU.**
- (c) The Committee may have the assistance of representatives from Health Association Nova Scotia and NSNU staff.**
- (d) The Committee will formalize terms of reference and determine its own procedure and processes.**
- (e) The Committee will meet on an as needed basis, but no less than quarterly.**
- (f) The Committee shall, among other things:**

- Consult with and seek input from representatives from diverse and under-represented groups as it relates to work within Long Term Care and Community Services in Nova Scotia.
- Research and, where reasonable, assess opportunities for and provide recommendations for workplace education to raise awareness of, understanding about and best practices in relation to preventing or addressing discrimination and achieving the goals of EDIRA within the workplace.
- Provide recommendations for best practices and/or share any tools to assist Employers, the NSNU and/or Nurse in meeting the goals of EDIRA in the workplace.
- Consider current collective agreement language within the lens of the parties commitment to EDIRA to ensure that language aligns with the parties goals.

The Committee is advisory in nature and does not have the authority to bind an Employer or NSNU.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #9

RE: INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE SCHEDULING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS the parties wish to discuss innovative and creative scheduling and staffing options within Long Term Care/Community Services

AND WHEREAS the parties acknowledge that innovative and creative scheduling and staffing models can help improve work life balance for Nurses, support the continuity of resident care, can help ensure adequate staffing levels and can help meet the operational requirements of the employer

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree that in order to adequately consider and explore creative and innovative scheduling and staffing options in Long Term Care/Community Services, a working group will be formed:

- 1. Within 90 days of the signing of the Agreement, the parties agree to establish a Provincial Working Group subject to ensuring appropriate resources to support the Working Group.**
- 2. The Working Group will be composed of equal numbers of Employer and Union representation from a variety of Employers with NSNU bargaining units in Long Term Care/Community Services.**
- 3. The Working Group may have the assistance of representatives from Health Association Nova Scotia, NSNU and Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care /Community Services. The Working Group shall explore opportunities to involve scheduling and workforce planning experts in discussions.**
- 4. The Working Group will meet on an as needed basis, but no less than quarterly.**
- 5. The Working Group shall, among other things consider the success of existing innovative staffing models across the sector so that employers can benefit from the experience of other employees with different staffing models this will include but is not limited to:**
 - (a) Reduction of Status Memorandums of Agreement**
 - (b) 80/20 or Hybrid Assignment Late Career Strategy Nursing Positions**
 - (c) Innovative Shift Memorandums of Agreement**

6. The Working Group shall explore opportunities to test & trial new and innovative staffing models across the sector including but not limited to:
 - (a) Innovative smoothing models,
 - (b) Seasonal, compressed or annualized hours of employment relationships
 - (c) Altering shift durations
7. The Working Group shall provide recommendations for best practices and/or share tools including but not limited to different master schedules, innovative shift rotations, scheduling templated to assist Employers in implementing/trialing innovative scheduling and staffing models.

The Working Group is advisory in nature and does not have the authority to bind an Employer or Union. In the event that any Employer and Local Union seek to trial a recommended options identified by the Working Group the parties agree that the process for implementation in the Innovate Shifts MOA will be followed.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT # 10
Exploring Cross Sector Staffing Initiative

Whereas the parties recognize the important of Nurses to the delivery of safe and appropriate care in the Long Term Care (LTC) and Community Services (CS) sectors;

And whereas the parties recognize the need to effectively utilize nursing resources within the sector and recognizing the importance of addressing the challenges posed by nursing shortages in the sectors;

And whereas the parties wish to explore opportunities to decrease reliance on external travel agencies in the delivery of nursing services;

The parties agree as follows:

- 1. Within 90 days of signing of the collective agreement the parties agree to meet, subject to obtaining appropriate resourcing, to establish a joint Task Force to discuss sector opportunities for shared resourcing arrangements between individual employers within and outside the LTC/CS Sector.**
- 2. The joint Task Force will include equal representatives from the Employers and NSNU. A representative of HANS will also participate in the committee in an *ex-officio* basis and will act as Chair of the Task Force. The joint Task Force will determine its terms of reference and its process.**
- 3. The Task Force may also seek input and support from other sector partners including the Department of Seniors and Long Term Care/Community Services, Health Authority or Home Support sectors as well as conducting cross jurisdictional research on initiatives in other jurisdictions.**
- 4. Discussion will include but not be limited to:**
 - opportunities for multi-Employer, regional or zonal partnership arrangements between employers to facilitate nursing coverage and ensure the safe and appropriate care to residence in the sectors.**
 - opportunities to partner with other sectors including the Health Authority (HA) or Home Support (HS) sectors to support LTC/CS sectors through joint initiatives, term sharing initiatives or for short term/immediate needs.**
 - opportunities to create staffing pool(s) that are accessible by sector employers to reduce reliance on external Travel Agencies**

- opportunities to provide support to rural employers where geographic location may impact opportunities for recruitment and retention of Nurse

5. The parties recognize that supporting models of shared service delivery may require the parties to consider:

- opportunities and liabilities in respect of employment models that involve working at multiple Employers
- opportunities and barriers from a regulatory perspective for Nurses working under a multi-location/multi-employer model
- existing language in collective agreements that may impact facility bases nurses working with or in shared service initiatives
- viable employment models to employ current Nurses in roles that may involve working outside their current employers
- create compensation model and framework that might attract nurses into roles that would encompass service delivery outside their employer
- an effective infrastructure model and support for the management and scheduling of nurses in the sector in non-traditional ways to better address shortages across the sector
- pilot models that may be trialed and shared with the broader sector including an evaluation process

The parties will provide a report on their findings and recommendation by April 1, 2025. The parties recognize that the recommendations of the Task Force will not bind individual employers or the NSNU.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #11
Enhanced Role Opportunities for Nurses

Whereas the parties recognize the importance of supporting Nurses to grow and develop within the profession throughout the Nurse's career;

And whereas the parties wish to support that career within the employment of Employers in the Long Term Care/Community Services Sector;

The parties agree, subject to ensuring appropriate resources, to meet to review and discuss opportunities for enhanced roles and/or opportunities within the Long Term Care/ Community Services sectors that would support Nurse in the progression of their careers within the sectors and assist in recruiting and retaining Nurses in the sectors by allowing opportunities for professional development and growth.

The parties agree to meet within 6 months of signing of this agreement to review and discuss opportunities including but not limited to:

- **Enhanced roles for Nurses that would better service the Long-Term Care/Community Services sectors including but not limited to specialty roles such as team leads or in specialty areas (e.g. infection control, education)**
- **Review opportunities that may be available in support of Hybrid Assignments that would allow for a percent of Nurse time to be spent outside of front-line nursing to provide professional development and create opportunities that may better retain late career Nurses or Nurses seeking professional enrichment opportunities.**
- **To consider options to partner within and outside the sector with other Employers to provide opportunities for Nurse to participate in professional opportunities through opportunities including but not limited to temporary secondments and short term approved LOAs to support career enrichment within the health care sector in Nova Scotia.**

The parties agree to discuss ways to engage Nurses in the sectors in conversations to solicit feedback on their roles and aspirations in relation to Nursing. The parties also agree to promote the development of more robust processes for stay and exit interviews in the sectors by Employers to better allow Employers to identify and respond to retention concerns.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #12

Increase in Hours During Peak Vacation Period

Whereas the parties acknowledge that some areas experience challenges in granting vacation during the peak summer vacation period, the Employer, at their full discretion, may utilize the following process in an effort to increase the number of vacation approvals:

Employers may, by way of Expression of Interest, offer Permanent Part-Time or Casual Nurses the opportunity to temporarily increase their FTE up to 1.0 FTE, for the purpose of being scheduled for up to full-time hours during the peak vacation period.

Nurses who opt to increase their FTE up to a 1.0 FTE remain eligible to request vacation during the peak vacation period, though the Nurse must commit to working up to full-time hours outside of any approved vacation taken.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #13

Vacation Entitlement

The vacation entitlement of a Nurse upon appointment to a position may be at a rate higher than the minimum prescribed in Article 10.00 if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to effect the appointment of a qualified Nurse to the position and upon agreement of the Union. Such agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

APPENDIX "D"

CLINICAL CAPACITY REPORT

EMPLOYER NAME: _____

FACILITY: _____

(1) NAME: _____ Date of Occurrence: (YYYY/MM/DD): _____

UNIT: _____ SHIFT/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: _____

(2)	STAFFING (NUMBERS)	SCHEDULED:	THIS SHIFT:
	RN's	_____	_____
	LPN's	_____	_____
	OTHER	_____	_____

(3) Number of Residents on Unit: _____

(4) Describe situation affecting safe and adequate care of residents:

(5) Detail actions you took in response to the workload situation to address resident needs:

Date: (YYYY/MM/DD) & Time of Submission

Signature

Original to Employer
Cc: Local Union President, Nurse

GUIDELINES FOR USE

- (1) A Nurse who believes that adequate and safe care of residents cannot be provided because of that Nurse's workload, shall bring the matter to the attention of the immediate Supervisor. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the Nurse may file a written report (Clinical Capacity Form) which shall be submitted to the Employer.
- (2) Briefly outline:
 - (a) the work situation; and
 - (b) identify specific problem(s). If the form does not provide sufficient space, please add further information on a separate sheet.
- (3) DO NOT identify any names of individuals involved in the incident described; use Dr. X or client/resident A.
- (4) Clinical Capacity Reports are not intended to replace any incident report form or other internal documentation required under Employer Policies.