



February 11, 2022

Acute Care Bargaining Update

Dear NSNU Member,

I want to provide you with a brief update on our bargaining efforts and that of our fellow health care unions in Nova Scotia.

To date, the NSNU has conducted a bargaining survey with members and our negotiating team is in place. Staff continue to perform research and cross-country comparisons while closely monitoring changes to compensation and contract language elsewhere.

Prior to commencing bargaining, the Nova Scotia Council of Health Care Unions (comprised of NSNU, NSGEU, CUPE and Unifor) determined that the Health Care Bargaining Unit would be first at the table, followed by Support, Administrative Professionals and then Nursing.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA), IWK Health Centre and the Nova Scotia Council of Health Care Unions reached a new collective agreement for health-care workers in July of 2021. The Health Care Council of Unions represents lab techs, pharmacists and other regulated health professionals.

At present, Support Bargaining Unit is at the table. We anticipate the earliest the Council of Nursing Unions could exchange proposals with employers is June of this year.

As you can appreciate, COVID-19 outbreaks have delayed the bargaining process for all teams, setting us off course from our anticipated schedules.

While we experience delays at the negotiating table, the NSNU still awaiting arbitration dates regarding retroactive pay on the LPN reclassification. Only one of the four health care unions that filed a grievance has met for arbitration.

Much has transpired during the pandemic, and we thank you for your dedication and patience. Rest assured that we are prepared for bargaining and have taken account of the changes impacting all health care workers since early 2020.

In Solidarity,

Janet Hazelton, NSNU President