

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

and

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT & GENERAL EMPLOYEES UNION

April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	3
ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS	3
*ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION	4
*ARTICLE 3 - JOINT CONSULTATION & LABOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	5
ARTICLE 4 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS	6
ARTICLE 5 - STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS	7
*ARTICLE 6 - INFORMATION	7
*ARTICLE 7 - PROBATIONARY PERIOD.....	9
*ARTICLE 8 - JOB POSTING	10
ARTICLE 9 - CHECKOFF	12
*ARTICLE 10 - TIME OFF FOR UNION ACTIVITY.....	13
*ARTICLE 11 - HOURS OF WORK	15
*ARTICLE 12 - OVERTIME.....	16
*ARTICLE 13 - INJURY ON DUTY	19
*ARTICLE 14 - VACATIONS	20
*ARTICLE 15 - HOLIDAYS	24
*ARTICLE 16 - SPECIAL LEAVE	25
ARTICLE 17 - GROUP INSURANCE & PENSION PLANS	37
ARTICLE 18 - SICK LEAVE	38
ARTICLE 19 - EMPLOYEE FILES AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW	40
*ARTICLE 20 - DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE	41
*ARTICLE 21 - NOTICE OF RESIGNATION.....	42
*ARTICLE 22 - GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION	43
*ARTICLE 23 – SERVICE	47
*ARTICLE 24 - TRAVEL REGULATIONS.....	48
*ARTICLE 25 - PAY PROVISIONS.....	49
*ARTICLE 26 - PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD	53
*ARTICLE 27 - LAYOFF AND RECALL.....	54
*ARTICLE 28 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY	56
*ARTICLE 29 – TERM OF AGREEMENT	57
SIGNED.....	59
*SCHEDULE A - WAGE RATES.....	60
SCHEDULE B-TERM EMPLOYEES	70
*MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING # 1 INTERREGIONAL MOBILITY	72

**Denotes change from previous agreement*

PREAMBLE

Whereas it is the intention and purpose of the parties to this Agreement to maintain the existing harmonious relations and settled conditions of employment between the Employer, the Employees and the Union, and to promote the well-being and the increased productivity of its Employees. Accordingly, the parties hereto set forth certain terms and conditions of employment relating to pay, hours of work and other related terms and conditions of employment affecting Employees covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS

- 1.01 "Bargaining Unit" means all Employees of the Employer employed in probationary, permanent and term positions, except those excluded pursuant to Article 2.01.
- 1.02 "Casual" is a person who works less than twenty-one (21) hours per week or one who is appointed to a term position of up to six (6) consecutive months. Casuals are not covered by the collective agreement and are not in the bargaining unit. If the casual appointment exceeds six (6) consecutive months, the Employer shall change the status of the Employee appointed to that position from casual to term upon the completion of the six (6) months service and shall notify the Employee and the Union in writing. When the Employer hires casuals under employment program (ie, Winter Works, Co-ops etc.) these casuals shall not be subject to the provisions of this article.
- 1.03 "Employee" means a probationary, permanent, or term Employee who is included in the bargaining unit.
- 1.04 "Employer" means the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority.
- 1.05 "Permanent Employee" is a member of the bargaining unit who is full time or part time employed to work at least twenty-one (21) hours per week on a year round, regular scheduled and recurring basis and who has completed the probationary period.
- 1.06 "Probationary Employee" is one hired for a permanent position who has not completed the probationary period.
- 1.07 "Service" means paid hours from the most recent date of hire to a permanent position.

- 1.08 "Spouse" means husband, wife, common-law, or same sex partner except where prohibited or precluded by law.
- 1.09 "Term Employee" is one hired temporarily for a period exceeding six (6) consecutive months to replace a permanent Employee or for special projects. If the Employer determines that there is a need on a permanent basis to fill a position to which an employee is appointed on a term basis and there is no present incumbent, the Employer shall change the status of the employee appointed to that position from term to permanent without posting, provided the employee has been employed on a term basis for at least twelve (12) months and shall notify the employee in writing. If the term appointment exceeds two (2) years, or the initial term appointment is renewed resulting in total combined periods of more than two (2) consecutive years, the Employer shall change the status of the employee appointed to that position from term to permanent upon the completion of the two (2) years service and shall notify the employee in writing. The term appointment shall not exceed twenty four (24) consecutive months, unless mutually agreed otherwise by the parties. In the absence of mutual agreement, and for greater certainty, the term position and the Employee's employment shall be terminated upon attainment of the twenty-four month period. The term Employee shall be covered only by those provisions of the collective agreement outlined in Schedule "B".
- 1.10 "Union" means the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU).

ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION

- 2.01 The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive collective bargaining agent for all probationary, permanent, and term employees employed by the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority, Halifax Nova Scotia, but excluding casuals, Director, all employees in bargaining units represented by other unions, and those persons excluded by paragraphs (a) & (b) of subsection (2), of Section 2 of the *Trade Union Act*.
- 2.02 No Discrimination for Union Activity

The parties agree that there will be no discrimination, interference, restriction, or coercion exercised or practiced with respect to any Employee for reason of membership or activity in the Union.

2.03 The Employer shall not discriminate against any Employee on the basis of the prohibited grounds as set out in the *Human Rights Act* except as authorized by the *Human Rights Act*, or any other law.

*2.04 Equity and Diversity Initiatives

The Employer and the Union are committed to a workplace that is free of discrimination, values diversity and is representative of the people of Nova Scotia. The Employer and the Union agree to meet during the term of this Agreement to identify initiatives that support equality of opportunity, accommodations for persons with disabilities and diversity in the workplace.

ARTICLE 3 - JOINT CONSULTATION & LABOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

3.01 The parties acknowledge the mutual benefits to be derived from joint consultation and are prepared to enter into discussions aimed at the development and introduction of appropriate mechanisms for the purpose of providing joint consultation on matters of common interest.

*3.02 Labour-Management Committee

The Labour-Management Committee shall meet for the purpose of discussing issues relating to working conditions and other matters that may arise during the life of this Agreement. The Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Union and (3) employer representatives and will be alternately chaired by the respective parties.

The Employer will recognize up to three (3) employees selected by the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority, Local 47 as members of this joint committee. The Labour-Management Committee will meet at least four (4) times per annum or more frequently at the request of either party at a time and place mutually agreed upon between the parties.

Employees who are designated as members of the Labour-Management Committee shall suffer no loss of pay or benefits for attendance at such committee meetings.

ARTICLE 4 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

4.01 Management Rights

The management and direction of Employees, operations and services is vested exclusively in the Employer, and any matter arising out of this shall not be the subject of collective bargaining. All functions, rights, powers, and authority which the Employer has not specifically abridged, deleted, or modified by this Agreement are recognized by the Union as being retained by the Employer.

4.02 Included in Management Rights

Without limiting the generality of the above, these rights include, but are not limited to, the right to:

- (a) hire, classify, transfer, direct, reprimand, suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline;
- (b) determine the work requirements, responsibilities and standards of work to be performed;
- (c) specify assignments for Employees;
- (d) expand, reduce, alter, combine, transfer or terminate any function or service which may be performed by members of the Bargaining Unit;
- (e) determine the size and composition of the workforce according to the needs of the Employer;
- (f) make or amend policies, procedures and practices provided that such policies, procedures and practices applying to members of the Bargaining Unit are not contrary to the terms of this Agreement;
- (g) maintain order and efficiency, manage and direct the workforce and establish terms and conditions of employment not in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement;
- (h) to enforce safety and other regulations.

4.03 Consistent Application

The Employer agrees that management rights will not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with the express provisions of this Agreement.

4.04 Delegation of Authority

The Employer reserves the right to delegate any authority provided under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5 - STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS

5.01 No Strike or Lockout

During the life of this Agreement, and pursuant to the *Trade Union Act*, no Employee(s) shall strike, and the Employer shall not lock out Employees.

5.02 No Sanction of Strike

The Union shall not sanction, encourage, or support financially or otherwise, a strike by its members during the life of this agreement.

5.03 Definitions

The words "strike" and "lockout" shall be as defined in the *Trade Union Act*.

ARTICLE 6 - INFORMATION

6.01 Copies of Agreement

The Union agrees to supply the Employer with copies of the Agreement. The cost will be shared between the parties.

6.02 Letter of Appointment

An Employee, upon hiring, shall be provided with a statement of their classification and employment status and applicable rate of pay.

6.03 Employer to Acquaint New Employees

The Employer agrees to provide new Employees at the time of hiring, or as soon as practicable thereafter, with a copy of the collective agreement in effect and acquaint them with the conditions of employment set out in the articles concerning checkoff and stewards.

*6.04 Union to Acquaint New Employees

The employer agrees to provide the Union at the time of hiring, or as soon as practicable thereafter, an opportunity to meet, in the workplace, each new member to explain rights and obligations of Union membership, the role and structure of the Union, including shop stewards, and the provisions of the collective agreement.

*6.05 Position Descriptions

- (a) A new employee or an employee who is appointed to a new position shall receive, upon commencement in the new position, information related to their role and the work environment, and be provided a position description outlining the duties and responsibilities assigned to their position.
- (b) Upon request by the Employee, the Employer shall provide the position description outlining the duties and responsibilities assigned to their position.
- (c) The Employer shall endeavour to ensure that position descriptions are reviewed and revised where necessary at periodic intervals but under no circumstances will that interval be in excess of five (5) years. Once a review has been concluded the affected Employee(s) shall be provided a hard copy of the position description within two (2) weeks.
- (d) All position descriptions shall be signed by the Employer and forwarded to the Union.
- (e) An employee who disagrees with their job description content shall have the right to provide their reasons in writing to the Director of the Housing Authority. The Director in consultation with Human Resources shall review the job description and employee's reasons and shall provide the employee and Union with their conclusions. The

content of a job description shall not subject to the grievance or arbitration process.

***6.06 Employee Information Provided to NSGEU Local President**

The Employer shall provide the NSGEU Local President a list of all new hires on at least a monthly basis. The list shall include the employees name and classification.

***6.07 Employee Information Provided to Union**

- (a) Within 60 days of the signing of the Collective Agreement, the Employer shall provide to the Union the names, classifications, employment status (permanent, part-time, term), service, seniority, termination/resignation/retirement dates, pay rates and the last known home address of all employees who are covered by this Agreement.
- (b) The Employer shall provide to the Union, a report containing any changes to information specified in (a) every six (6) months thereafter.
- (c) Should the Employer be unable to comply with either (a) or (b) due to operational capabilities, the Employer shall provide the Union with reasonable notice.
- (d) The Union is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of employees' personal information. Employee home addresses shall be used for the purpose of Union business only.

ARTICLE 7 - PROBATIONARY PERIOD

7.01 An Employee appointed to a permanent position shall serve a probationary period of six (6) months of work. The Employer may, before the expiration of the six (6) month period and at its sole discretion, extend the probationary appointment for a period not to exceed an additional six (6) months of work.

7.02 Confirmation of Permanent Employment

Pursuant to Article 7.01, the Employee shall, upon successful completion of the probationary period, attain permanent status and the Employer shall confirm such, in writing, to the Employee.

7.03 Termination of Probationary Employee

The Probationary Employee may be discharged during the probationary period and the standard for discharge shall be determined by the Employer and shall be at the Employer's sole discretion.

*7.04 Trial Period for Term Employees

A term employee who accepts a permanent position shall serve a trial period of four hundred fifty-five (455) hours in the new position in lieu of 7.01 probationary period where:

- i) The term employee has been employed for six (6) months or more; and
- ii) The term employee was immediately previously employed in a term capacity

The employee may be discharged during this trial period and the standard for discharge shall be determined by the Employer and at the Employer's sole discretion.

ARTICLE 8 - JOB POSTING

8.01 Job Posting

- (a) When a new position or vacancy occurs within the bargaining unit which the Employer intends to fill, the Employer shall, within three (3) months, post a notice of such new position or vacancy where Employees work for seven (7) calendar days. The Employer reserves the right to post simultaneously such positions internally and externally.
- (b) Notwithstanding Article 8.01 (a), the Employer maintains the right to transfer Employees within the same classification according to the exigencies of the service and in such cases a posting will not be required. A transfer to a geographic location greater than thirty-two (32) kms one way from the Employee's work place requires consent of the Employee.

8.02 Filling Positions

- (a) In filling positions, internal applicants will be considered before external applicants. The employer reserves the right to post simultaneously internally and externally.
- (b) In filling positions, all applicants will be assessed on the basis of qualifications, ability and suitability. Where, in the opinion of the Employer, the qualifications, ability and suitability are relatively equal, service shall be the deciding factor.

*8.03 Trial Period

- (a) An Employee who is the successful applicant for promotion to a new or vacant position shall be given a trial period for four hundred fifty-five (455) hours in the new position
- (b) If, in the opinion of the Employer, the successful applicant proves unsatisfactory during the trial period, they shall be returned to their former or a similar position and salary without loss of service or other benefits. If an Employee requests to be returned to their previous position or a similar position during the trial period they shall be returned to their former position or a similar position and salary without loss of service or other benefits. Any other Employee promoted or transferred because of the rearrangement of positions shall be returned to their same or similar position and salary without loss of service or other benefits. After the successful completion of the trial period, the promotion or transfer shall become permanent. In implementing the rearrangement of positions, no job postings shall be required.

*8.04 Permanent Employees Appointed to Term Bargaining Unit Positions

Permanent employees who are appointed to term bargaining unit positions shall maintain their permanent status and have the right to return, at the expiry of the term assignment, to their former permanent position. Such employees shall be entitled to five (5) business days written notice in the event there is to be an earlier expiry date of the term appointments.

*8.05 Temporarily Working in an Excluded Position

- (a) Where a permanent employee accepts an excluded term position and takes an approved leave from their bargaining unit position, the employee has a right to return to their bargaining unit position at the expiry of the excluded term position.
- (b) While in the excluded term position, the employee shall not pay Union dues, nor shall the Union have a duty to represent the employee in any matter arising out of their excluded position. However, the Union reserves the right to represent the employee in relation to their right to return to their bargaining unit position.
- (c) Should the permanent employee apply for a bargaining unit position while on an approved leave from their bargaining unit position, the employee shall be considered an internal applicant.

ARTICLE 9 - CHECKOFF

9.01 Deduction of Union Dues

The Employer will, as a condition of employment, deduct an amount equal to the amount of the Union's membership dues from the bi-weekly pay of all Employees in the Bargaining Unit.

9.02 Notification of Deduction

The Union shall inform the Employer, in writing, of the amount to be deducted for each Employee

9.03 Remittance of Union Dues and Membership Information

The amounts deducted from the pay of the Employee in accordance with Article 9.01 shall be remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union within a reasonable time after deductions are made and shall be accompanied by particulars identifying each Employee and the deductions made on their behalf.

9.04 Liability

The Union agrees to indemnify and save the Employer harmless against any claim or liability arising out of the application of this Article except for any claim or liability arising out of an error committed by the Employer.

ARTICLE 10 - TIME OFF FOR UNION ACTIVITY

10.01 Notification

The Union shall notify the Employer of the names of its five (5) Shop Stewards and the Employer shall submit a list of Supervisors to the NSGEU.

10.02 Leave of Absence for Union Business

With reasonable notice by the Union, and where operational requirements permit, leave of absence with pay shall be granted to Employees designated by the Union to attend to union business. The Union shall reimburse the Employer for all costs of the leave relating to the wages and benefits for the time off.

*10.03 Grievance Meetings

Local Steward representatives may be entitled to leave their work during working hours in order to carry out their functions under this Agreement which are limited to the processing of complaints or grievances. Permission to leave work during working hours for such purposes must be obtained from the supervisor or Director. Such permission shall not be unreasonably denied. The Local Union representative shall inform the Supervisor before resuming the normal duties of their position.

10.04 Contract Negotiations

With reasonable notice by the Union, leave of absence with pay for Union leave shall be granted to not more than four (4) Employees to attend negotiation sessions with the Employer for a renewal of this agreement. The Union shall reimburse the Employer for all costs of the leave relating to the wages and benefits for the time off.

10.05 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) An Employee who declares their intention to offer for the position of President of the Union shall notify the Employer as soon as possible after declaring their intention to seek the office of the President.
- (b) An Employee elected or appointed as President of the Union shall be given leave of absence without pay for the term(s) they are to serve.
- (c) A leave of absence for a second (2nd) and subsequent consecutive term(s) shall be granted in accordance with paragraph (a) and (b).
- (d) For the purposes of paragraph (b) and (c), the leave of absence shall commence as determined by the Union, provided one month's notice is provided to the Employer.
- (e) All group insurance benefits of the Employee shall continue in effect while the Employee is serving as President, and, for such purposes, the Employee shall be deemed to be in the employ of the Employer, subject to the approval of the Plan Carrier.
- (f) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c), the gross salary of the President shall be determined by the Union and paid to the President by the Employer, and the amount of the gross salary shall be reimbursed to the Employer by the Union.
- (g) Upon expiration of their term of office, the Employee shall be reinstated to the same or equivalent position they held immediately prior to the commencement of leave, with no loss of benefits accrued to the commencement of the leave and with no loss of seniority for the period of absence.
- (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Agreement, vacation earned but not used prior to taking office shall be paid out to the Employee at the time they commence the leave.
- (i) The Union shall reimburse to the Employer the Employer's share of contributions for EI premiums, Canada Pension Plan, other pension and group insurance premiums made on behalf of the Employee during the period of leave of absence. The Union shall also

reimburse to the Employer the Employer's cost of re-certification for Standard First Aid.

ARTICLE 11 - HOURS OF WORK

11.01 The regular hours of work shall be a maximum of thirty-five (35) hours per week, exclusive of meal break.

***11.02 Modified Work Week**

- (a) Where an Employee requests to work a modified work week, the Employer may approve a modified work week providing operational requirements permit and the efficiency of the services are not adversely affected.
- (b) The averaging period for a modified work week shall be three (3) weeks.
- (c) The modified work week program may be terminated by the Director with thirty (30) calendar days notice to the Employee in the event that a modified work week:
 - i) Does not result in the provision of satisfactory service;
 - ii) Incurs an increase in cost; or
 - iii) Is operationally impractical for other reasons

11.03 Conversion of Hours

For permanent part-time employees, except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, the following paid leave benefits will be converted to hours on the basis of one day's benefit being equivalent to 1/10 of the regular bi-weekly hours for the employee's classification:

- Annual vacation entitlement
- Vacation carryover
- Paid holidays
- Bereavement leave
- Leave for family illness
- Leave for emergency
- Leave for medical/dental appointments
- Sick leave

ARTICLE 12 - OVERTIME

*12.01 Overtime, except where an Employee works flex or modified hours, means work authorized by the Employer in excess of thirty-five (35) hours per week or in excess of seven (7) hours per day contiguous with the Employee's regular shift.

Subject to operational requirements, the Employer shall make every reasonable effort to allocate overtime work on a fair and equitable basis among readily available and qualified employees and to give employees who are required to work overtime, notice of this requirement when this requirement becomes evident to the immediate supervisor.

12.02 Employees who work less than full-time hours will be entitled to overtime compensation in accordance with the collective agreement when they work in excess of the normal full-time weekly hours. Employees who work less than full-time hours who are scheduled for a shift of seven (7) or more hours will be entitled to overtime compensation for time worked beyond the scheduled hours. Employees who work less than full-time hours who are scheduled to work a shorter period than the full-time shift will be entitled to overtime compensation after they have worked the equivalent shift. Where employees who work less than full time hours are scheduled to work less than the normal days per week of employees working full-time hours, straight time hours will be paid up to and including the normal work days in the work week of the employees working full-time hours and overtime rates will be paid for days worked in excess thereof.

12.03 An Employee must work at least twenty (20) minutes beyond his normal shift to be eligible for overtime compensation.

12.04 The overtime rate shall be one and one-half (1.5) times the Employee's regular hourly rate, except where expressly provided otherwise.

12.05 Overtime Meal Allowance

An Employee who is required to work a minimum of three (3) hours' overtime following his scheduled hours of work, and where it is not practical for them to enjoy their usual meal time before commencing such work, shall be granted reasonable time with pay in order that he may take a meal break either at or adjacent to his place of work. Under such conditions he shall be reimbursed for ten dollars (\$10.00), except where free meals are provided.

12.06 Day of Rest

- (a) An Employee who is required to work overtime on his first scheduled day of rest shall be paid at the overtime rate as provided in Article 12.04.
- (b) An Employee who is required to work overtime on his second or subsequent day of rest is entitled to compensation at double time for all hours worked. Second or subsequent day of rest means the second or subsequent day in an unbroken series of consecutive and contiguous calendar days of rest.

12.07 Computation of Overtime

In computing overtime, a period of thirty (30) minutes or less shall be counted as one-half (1/2) hour and a period of more than thirty (30) minutes but less than sixty (60) minutes shall be counted as one (1) hour.

12.08 Form of Compensation

Compensation for overtime shall be paid except where, upon request of the Employee, and with the approval of the Employer, overtime may be granted in the form of time off in lieu of overtime hours worked.

*12.09 Time Off in Lieu of Overtime

Time off in lieu of overtime shall be used or paid out no later than the end of the fiscal year unless otherwise agreed to by the Employee and Employer.

12.10 Daylight Saving Time

The changing of Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time, or vice versa, shall not result in Employees being paid more or less than their normal scheduled daily hours. The hour difference shall be split between the Employees completing their shift and those commencing their shift.

*12.11 Standby

- a) Subject to operational requirements, the Employer shall make every reasonable effort to allocate standby on a fair and equitably basis among readily available and qualified employees and to give employees who are required to standby, notice of this requirement when this requirement becomes evident to the immediate supervisor.

- b) An Employee on standby is one who has been designated to be available at all times during the Employee's normal time off to report for duty as quickly as possible if called to do so.
- c) "Standby period" will normally run seven (7) consecutive days. In cases where operational requirements allow, standby periods may run less than seven (7) consecutive days.
- d) Employees who are required by the Employer to standby shall receive standby pay of:

Four (4) hours pay for each seven (7) day stand by period.

12.12 Call Back

- (a) Call-back is a condition of employment whereby an Employee, after he has completed his regular shift and returned home, and prior to commencing his next regular shift, is called back to work, and returns to work for a period of overtime that is not contiguous with the Employee's regular shift.
- (b) An Employee who is called back to work pursuant to (a) above shall be compensated for a minimum of four (4) hours at the straight time rate for the period worked or the applicable overtime rate, whichever is greater. The minimum guarantee of four (4) hours pay at the straight time rate shall only apply once during each eight (8) consecutive hours for any Employee who is called back.
- (c) An Employee called back to work shall be reimbursed for transportation to and from the place of work in accordance with the mileage allowance.
- (d) When the call-in results in hours worked that are contiguous with the Employee's regular day, the Employee shall be compensated for the time worked in accordance with Article 12.04.

ARTICLE 13 - INJURY ON DUTY

13.01 Reporting of Injuries

All Employees shall be covered by Workers' Compensation.

13.02 Injury Pay Provisions

When an Employee is injured on duty and it is determined by the Nova Scotia Workers' Compensation Board that the Employee is unable to perform their duties, the Employer shall grant to the Employee leave in the manner prescribed by the *Workers' Compensation Act* for a period as the Workers' Compensation Board may specify. The Employer agrees to top-up Workers Compensation pay to eighty-five percent (85%) of net average earnings, as provided for in Section 48 of the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

13.03 Alternate Medical Practitioner

The Employer may require the Employee be examined by a medical practitioner.

13.04 Benefits on WCB

The Employer and the Employee may continue to cost share the premiums of the group health, Life, ADD and LTD insurance plans while an Employee is in receipt of temporary earnings replacement benefits from Workers' Compensation.

b) Where the employee opts in writing to maintain the benefit plan referred to in article 17.01 the employee shall enter into an arrangement with the employer to continue the cost share arrangement as specified by 17.02. The Employee will be required to sign a letter of agreed understanding that default of payments will result in termination of group coverage subsequent to a thirty (30) day notice period.

13.05 WCB Payments

WCB payments will be issued directly to the employees.

13.06 Vacation, Severance & Public Service Award

An employee in receipt of temporary earnings replacement shall continue to accumulate service up to one year after the injury for the purpose of vacation, severance pay as defined in Article 27.06 and public service award.

13.07 Job Posting Layoff & Recall

An employee shall continue to accumulate service for the duration they are in receipt of temporary earnings replacement for the purpose of job posting, layoff and recall.

13.09 Sick Leave on WCB Waiting Period

An employee may use sick leave to cover the WCB waiting period. If the employee has exhausted their sick leave, then they may choose to draw from their vacation or banked time if available or take the time as unpaid. The parties agree that should WCB cover the waiting period the Employee's bank will be adjusted to reflect this.

ARTICLE 14 - VACATIONS

*14.01 Annual Vacation Entitlement

- (a) An Employee shall earn annual vacation with pay, as of date of ratification, April 25th, 2019, in accordance with the following:
 - (i) each year during their first sixty (60) months of service at the rate of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) days for each month of service; three (3) weeks during the first five (5) years of service.
 - (ii) each year after sixty (60) months of service at the rate of one and two-thirds (1 2/3) days for each month of service; four (4) weeks after five (5) years of service.
 - (iii) each year after one hundred and eighty (180) months of service at the rate of two and one twelfth (2 1/12) days for each month of service; five (5) weeks after fifteen (15) years of service.

- (iv) each year after two hundred eight-eight (288) months of service at the rate of two and one-half (2 ½) days for each month of service; six (6) weeks after twenty-four (24) years of service.

14.02 Vacation Year

The vacation year shall be April 1 to March 31 inclusive.

14.03 Authorization

An Employee shall be granted vacation leave at such time during the year as the Employer determines.

- 14.04 (a) Employees shall advise the Employer by April 15 of preference for summer vacation and such vacation request shall be granted, subject to operational requirements.
- (b) Where two (2) or more Employees request the same vacation period, preference shall be given based on length of service.
- (c) The Employer shall post the approved vacation schedule no later than May 15th.
- (d) After the vacation schedule is posted, if operational requirements permit additional Employees to be on vacation leave, such leave shall be offered to Employees on a work unit by length of service.
- (e) By mutual agreement between the Employer and Employee, vacation days may be granted at times other than scheduled in accordance with this Article. When more than one Employee wishes to take vacation under this paragraph, such vacation shall be offered to Employees on a work unit by length of service.
- (f) Outside the summer period vacation shall be granted on a “first come first serve” basis on a work unit.

*14.05 Vacation Carry Over

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, vacation leave for a period of not more than five (5) days may, with the consent of the Employer, be carried over to the following fiscal year, but shall lapse if not used before the close of that fiscal year. Requests for carry over vacation shall be made in writing by the Employee to the Employer not later than March 31st of the year in which the vacation is earned, provided however that the Employer may accept a shorter period of notice of the request. The Employer shall respond in writing within one (1) calendar month of receiving an Employee's request.

An employee who is unable to take earned vacation within the vacation year due to illness or injury leave or pregnancy/parental/ adoption leave shall be entitled to carry over this unused earned vacation into the subsequent year.

For greater clarity, and unless otherwise stated, an employee is not considered to be earning vacation credits while in receipt of WCB replacement earnings, long term disability, or other unpaid leaves including parental leave.

14.06 Accumulative Vacation Carry-Over

In addition to the vacation carry-over, an Employee may be granted permission to accumulate (bank) up to five (5) days of their vacation each fiscal year. The maximum number of days that may be accumulated is twenty (20).

14.07 Vacation Advance

An Employee who has been employed by the Employer for five (5) years or more and has used all their vacation credits may be granted, if operational requirements permit, an advance of five (5) days vacation from their entitlement for the following fiscal year.

14.08 Employee Compensation Upon Separation

An Employee, upon his separation, shall be compensated for vacation leave to which they have earned.

14.09 Employer Compensation Upon Separation

An Employee, upon his separation, shall compensate the Employer for vacation which was taken but which he had not earned.

14.10 Vacation Credits Upon Death

When the employment of an Employee who has been granted more vacation with pay than they have earned is terminated by death, the Employee is considered to have earned the amount of leave with pay granted to them.

14.11 Vacation Records

An Employee is entitled to be informed, upon request, of the balance of their vacation leave with pay credits.

14.12 Recall from Vacation

The Employer will make every reasonable effort not to recall an Employee to duty after they have proceeded on vacation leave.

14.13 Reimbursement of Expenses upon Recall

Where, during any period of vacation leave, an Employee is recalled to duty, they shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, subject to the provisions of Article 12.11(c), that they incurs:

- (a) in proceeding to their place of duty; and
- (f) in returning to the place from which they were recalled if they immediately resumes vacation leave upon completing the assignment for which they were recalled.

14.14 Reinstatement of Vacation Upon Recall

The period of vacation leave so displaced resulting from recall and transportation time in accordance with Article 14.13, shall either be added to the vacation period, if requested by the Employee and approved by the Employer, or reinstated for use at a later date.

14.15 An employee who is unable to use their earned vacation during the year due to the injury may be approved to carry this earned vacation over to the

following year. Where this approval is not provided the vacation time will be paid out.

ARTICLE 15 - HOLIDAYS

***15.01 Paid Holidays**

The holidays for Employees shall be:

- (a) New Year's Day
- (b) Heritage Day
- (c) Good Friday
- (d) Easter Monday
- (e) Victoria Day
- (f) Canada Day
- (g) Labour Day
- (h) Thanksgiving Day
- (i) Remembrance Day
- (j) Christmas Day
- (k) Boxing Day
- (l) one (1) additional day in each year that, in the opinion of the Employer, is recognized to be a provincial or civic holiday in the area in which the Employee is employed, or, where no such additional day is recognized as a provincial or civic holiday, the first Monday in August.
- (m) one-half (1/2) day on Christmas Eve Day beginning at 12:00 noon

15.02 Exception

Article 15.01 does not apply to an Employee who is absent without pay on both the working day immediately preceding and the working day following the designated holiday.

15.03 Holiday Falling on a Day of Rest

When a day designated as a holiday coincides with the Employee's day of rest, the Employer shall grant the holiday with pay on either:

- (1) the working day immediately following their day of rest; or
- (2) the day following the Employee's annual vacation; or
- (3) another mutually acceptable day between the Employer and the Employee.

15.04 Holiday Coinciding with Paid Leave

Where a day that is a designated holiday for an Employee as defined in Article 15.01, falls within a period of leave with pay, the holiday shall not count as a day of leave.

15.05 An Employee shall be paid at double (2x) the Employee's regular rate for time worked on a paid holiday outlined in Article 15.01, in addition to being paid for the holiday.

ARTICLE 16 - SPECIAL LEAVE

16.01 Bereavement Leave

(a) In the event of a death in the immediate family, every Employee shall be entitled to special leave with pay for a period of up to five (5) consecutive working days for each death. Immediate family is defined as the Employee's father, mother, step-parents, brother, half-brother, step-brother, sister, half-sister, step-sister, spouse, child of the Employee, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, step child, ward of the Employee, grandparent or grandchild of the Employee, and a relative permanently residing in the Employee's household or with whom the Employee permanently resides. Where the burial and funeral are separated by a period of time the Employee may break the five (5) days into two different periods.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Employee's paid leave entitlement for such circumstances will not expire prior to the expiration of seven (7) calendar days commencing midnight following the death.

(b) In the event of a death of the Employee's brother-in-law, sister-in-law, foster parent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or grandparent of the spouse of the Employee, the Employee is entitled to special leave with pay up to a maximum of one (1) day and may be granted up to two (2) additional days with pay for travel, assuming those travel days are not scheduled days of rest.

(c) If an Employee is on vacation or sick leave at the time of bereavement, the Employee shall be granted bereavement leave and be credited the appropriate number of days to their vacation or sick leave credits.

16.02 Court Leave

- (a) Leave of absence with pay shall be given to every Employee who is required to serve on a jury, or is required by subpoena or summons to attend as a witness to any proceeding authorized to compel attendance.
- (b) Where an Employee is required to serve as a result of functions they fulfill on behalf of the Employer, on a day other than a regularly scheduled workday, the time spent shall be considered time worked.
- (c) The Employer shall maintain the Employee's regular rate of pay, except in the case of jury duty where the Employer may deduct an amount equal to that which the Employee receives for such jury duty, excluding payment for traveling, meals and other expenses.

*16.03 Leave for Family Illness

In the case of illness of a member of an Employee's immediate family, meaning spouse, son, daughter, parent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle – whether or not living with the employee and any other relative residing with the Employee or with whom the Employee permanently resides who is in need of the Employee's assistance, the Employee may be granted, after notifying their supervisor, leave with pay up to a maximum of five (5) days per annum. The Supervisor may require proof of the need for such leave as they considers necessary. Such leave shall not be unreasonably withheld.

In the case of preventative medical and dental care for an employee's spouse, child, parent, whether or not living with the employee, or other relative of the employee who, while not listed here, permanently resides with the employee, and where the presence of the employee is required, the employee may be granted, after notifying their supervisor, approval to access family illness leave credits. The Supervisor may require proof of need for such leave as they consider necessary. Such leave shall not be unreasonably withheld.

*16.04 Pregnancy Leave

- (a) An Employee who becomes pregnant, shall, upon request, be granted an unpaid leave of absence of up to sixteen (16) weeks.

- (b) The Employer shall not terminate the employment of an Employee who has been an Employee for twelve (12) continuous months because of their pregnancy, but may require the Employee to commence leave without pay at a time when the duties of their position cannot reasonably be performed by a pregnant employee or the performance of the Employee's work is materially affected by the pregnancy.
- (c) No later than the fifth (5) month of pregnancy, the Employee shall submit a written request for pregnancy leave to the Employer.
- (d) Prior to approving the leave, the Employer may request, and the Employee shall then provide, a certificate from a medical practitioner stating the Employee is pregnant and specifying the expected date of delivery.
- (e) Pregnancy leave shall commence on a date, not sooner than sixteen (16) weeks preceding the expected date of delivery, as the Employee determines, and not later than the date of the delivery.
- (f) Pregnancy leave shall end on a date not sooner than one (1) week after the date of delivery and not later than sixteen (16) weeks after the pregnancy leave began.
- (g) The Employee shall resume work in the same position they held prior to the commencement of the pregnancy leave.
- (h) Leave for illness arising out of or associated with the Employee's pregnancy prior to the commencement of, or the ending of, pregnancy leave may be granted in accordance with Article 18 Sick Leave.
- (i) While an Employee is on pregnancy leave the Employer shall maintain coverage for medical, extended health, group life and any other benefit plan and shall continue to pay its share of premium costs for maintaining such coverage during the period of pregnancy leave.
- (j) While on pregnancy leave, an Employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service credits for the duration of their leave, and their service shall be deemed to be continuous; however, service accumulated during pregnancy leave shall not be used for the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits.

*16.05 Pregnancy Leave Allowance

- (a) An Employee, entitled to pregnancy leave under the provisions noted above, who provides the Employer with proof under the provisions noted above, that they have applied for and are eligible to receive employment insurance (EI) benefits pursuant to the *Employment Insurance Act* 1996, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (SEB) plan.
- (b) With respect to the period of pregnancy leave, payments made according to the SEB plan will consist of the following:
 - (i) where the Employee is subject to a waiting period of one (1) week before receiving EI benefits, one (1) payments equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of their weekly rate of pay less any other earnings received by the Employee during the benefit period;
 - (ii) Where the employee has served the one (1) week waiting period in (i), one (1) additional payment equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefit, the employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of their weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the employee 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 EI benefits the Employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of their weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the Employee during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the EI benefits to which the Employee would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during the period.
- (c) Where an Employee becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, payments under the SEB Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

*16.06 Parental Leave

- (a) An Employee who has become a parent of one or more children through the birth of the child or children, is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to seventy-seven (77) weeks.

- (b) Upon request, the Employee shall provide such proof as is reasonably necessary to establish the entitlement.
- (c) For an Employee who has taken pregnancy leave pursuant to Article 16.04 and the Employee's newborn child or children arrive in the Employee's home during the pregnancy leave, Parental Leave:
 - (i) Shall begin immediately upon completion of the pregnancy leave and without the Employee returning to work; and
 - (ii) Shall end not later than sixty-one (61) weeks after the parental leave began, as determined by the Employee and subject to notice requirements.
- (d) While an Employee is on parental leave, the Employer shall maintain coverage of medical, extended health, group life, and any other Employee benefit plan and shall continue to pay its share of premium costs for maintaining such coverage during the period of parental leave.
- (e) While on parental leave, an Employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service credits for the duration of their leave, and their service shall be deemed to be continuous. However, service accumulated during parental leave shall not be used for the purpose of calculating vacation leave credits.
- (f) If both parents are eligible for such leave as Employees the provisions of the Section shall only be available to one (1) of those Employees.
- (g) For an Employee other than one to whom Article 16.06 applies, Parental Leave shall begin on a date coinciding with or after the birth of the child or children; and shall end not later than seventy-seven (77) weeks after the child or children first arrive in the Employee's home, whichever is earlier, as determined by the Employee.
- (h) Where an Employee reports for work upon the expiration of the period referred to in Article 16.06 (c) or 16.06 (g), the Employee shall resume work in the same position they held prior to the commencement of the parental leave.

*16.07 Adoption Leave

- (a) An Employee who has become a parent of one or more children through the placement of the child or children in care of the Employee for the purpose of adoption pursuant to the law of the Province is entitled to a leave of absence without pay for a period not to exceed seventy-seven (77) weeks.
- (b) The Employer shall require an Employee who requests Adoption leave to submit a certificate to the Employer from an official in the Department of Community Services to establish the entitlement of the Employee to the Adoption Leave.
- (c) The Adoption Leave:
 - (i) shall begin on a date coinciding with the arrival of the child or children in the Employee's home, and
 - (ii) shall end not later than seventy-seven (77) weeks from the date the adoption leave began.
- (d) If both adoptive parents are eligible for Adoption Leave as Employees, the provisions of this Article shall only be available to one (1) of those Employees.
- (e) Where an Employee reports for work upon the expiration of the period referred to in this Article, the Employee shall resume work in the same position the Employee held prior to the commencement of the Adoption Leave, with no loss of service or benefits accrued to the commencement of the Adoption Leave.
- (f) While an Employee is on Adoption Leave, the Employer shall maintain coverage of medical, extended health, group life and any other Employee benefit plan and shall continue to pay its share of premium costs for maintaining such coverage during the period of Adoption Leave.
- (g) While on Adoption Leave, an Employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service credits for the duration of the leave, and the Employee's service shall be deemed to be continuous. However, service accumulated during the Adoption Leave shall not be used for the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits.

*16.08 Parental and Adoption Leave Allowance

- (a) An Employee entitled to Parental or Adoption Leave under the provision of this Agreement, who provides the Employer with proof that they have applied for and is eligible to receive employment insurance (EI) benefits pursuant to the *Employment Insurance Act*, 1996, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (SEB) Plan.
- (b) In respect to the period of Parental or Adoption Leave, payments made according to the SEB Plan will consist of the following:
 - (i) where the Employee is subject to a waiting period of one (1) week before receiving EI benefits, payments equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of their weekly rate of pay less any other earnings received by the Employee during the benefits period;
 - (ii) Where the employee has served the one (1) week waiting period in (i), one (1) additional payment equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefit, the employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of their weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the employee would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during that period.
 - (iii) Up to a maximum of ten (10) additional weeks as follows:
 - a. where the employee is in receipt of standard E.I. parental benefits, the payments will be equivalent to the difference between the weekly standard E.I. benefits the employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three per cent (93%) of the employee's weekly rate of pay;
 - b. where the employee 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 employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three percent (93%) of the employee's weekly rate of pay;
- (c) For the purposes of this allowance, an Employee's weekly rate of pay

will be one-half the bi-weekly rate of pay to which the Employee is entitled for their classification on the day immediately preceding the commencement of the Parental or Adoption Leave.

- (d) Where an Employee becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, payments under the SEB Plan will be adjusted accordingly.
- (e) The Employer will not reimburse the Employee for any amount they are required to remit to Human Resources Development Canada where their annual income exceeds one and one-half (1 ½) times the maximum yearly insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act*.

16.09 Emergency Leave

An Employee shall be granted a leave of absence with pay of up to two (2) days for a critical condition which requires their personal attention resulting from an emergency and which cannot be serviced by others or attended to by the Employee during off hours.

16.10 Medical and Dental Appointments

Employees may be granted paid leave of absence up to four (4) days per annum, to be debited against sick leave credits, in order to engage in personal preventive medical and dental care, and subject to the following criteria:

- a) The Employee should arrange medical and dental appointments outside normal working hours, if possible.
- b) The Employee should request approval for the time off as far in advance as possible so that staff adjustments can be arranged when necessary.
- d) If an Employee requests excessive time off for medical or dental appointments, proof of attendance at the physician's or dentist's office may be required.

Time taken will be recorded on Employee timesheets and entered into the SAP system.

16.11 Storm Conditions

- (a) Time lost by an Employee as a result of absence or lateness due to storm conditions or because of the condition of public streets and highways or because an Employee finds it necessary to seek permission to leave prior to the end of the regular day must be:
 - i) made up by the Employee at a time agreed upon between the Employee and the Employee's immediate supervisor; or,
 - ii) charged to the Employee's accumulated vacation, accumulated holiday time, or accumulated overtime or
 - iii) otherwise deemed to be leave without pay.
 - iv) Notwithstanding Article 16.11 (a), i), and ii) and iii), reasonable lateness beyond the beginning of an Employee's regular day starting time shall not be subject to the provisions of Article 16.11 a), b), and c), where the lateness is justified by the Employee being able to establish to the satisfaction of the immediate supervisor that every reasonable effort has been made by the Employee to arrive to work at the scheduled time.
- (b) The Employer may, in the event of storm conditions or because of the condition of public streets and highways, and in circumstances where it can be accommodated within operational requirements, determine it appropriate to allow Employees to leave work prior to the end of their regular day, and any time missed from the day in such circumstances will not be subject to the provisions of Article 16.11 a), b), and c).
- (c) No discrimination is to be practiced in the administration of this Article resultant from individual or personal situations, i.e. place of residence, family responsibilities, transportation problems, carpools, etc.

16.12 Leave for Public Office

When an Employee is granted time off work as a result of election activity such time off will be without pay and will be for a maximum of two (2) years.

16.13 Prepaid Leave

- (a) The Prepaid Leave Plan affords Employees the opportunity of taking a year leave of absence financed through salary deferral.
- (b) All permanent Employees are eligible for the program; however, the scheduling of the leave and whether or not the vacant position is to be temporarily refilled must be undertaken with the issues of service to the public and maintaining financial restraint as criteria.
- (c) An application for participation in the Plan is to be filed with the Employee's supervisor at least (4) months prior to the beginning of the pay period when the Plan is to commence.
- (d) The leave period is not to exceed one (1) year. At the commencement of the Plan, the Employee will be paid a reduced salary, and the remaining percentage of salary and applicable interest will be accumulated and used to finance leave. The maximum length of the deferral period is six (6) years and the maximum amount of salary that may be deferred is 1/3 (33 1/3%). When received, the deferred amounts are subject to income taxes, Canada Pension and Employment Insurance.
- (e) The calculation of interest under the terms of this Plan shall be done monthly (not in advance). The interest paid shall be calculated by averaging the interest rates in effect on the last day of each calendar month for: a true savings account, a one (1) year term deposit, a three (3) year term deposit and a five (5) year term deposit. The rates for each of the accounts identified shall be those quoted by the financial institution maintaining the deferred account. Interest shall be based upon the average daily balance of the account and credited to the Employee's account on the first day of the following calendar month.
- (f) During the period of salary deferral, i.e. before the leave, any benefits related to salary level shall be structured according to the salary the Employee would have received had they not been enrolled in the Plan. While the Employee is on leave, they are responsible to pay the full cost of all such benefits and these benefits shall be based on the salary the Employee would have received in the year prior to the leave had they not been enrolled in the Plan. Vacation credits will not be earned during the leave and sick leave is not available during this period.

- (g) In extraordinary circumstances, the Employee may withdraw from the Plan by submitting a written request. In the event of withdrawal or termination, the Employees shall be paid a lump sum including accrued interest.
- (h) If the Employee is "laid off" during the deferral period, they shall be required to withdraw from the plan. Should the Employee die while participating in the Plan, the balance of monies owing shall be paid to the Estate.
- (i) If, during the Plan, the Employee's position is terminated, they shall be eligible for severance pay as outlined in Article 27.06.
- (j) The Employer shall enter into a written agreement with the Employee at the commencement of the Plan, although the percentage of salary deferred and the period of leave may be amended by mutual agreement.

***16.14 Compassionate Leave**

- (a) Employees employed for more than three (3) months are able to take up to a maximum of twenty-eight (28) weeks' unpaid leave to care for a seriously ill family member, who has a high risk of dying within twenty-six (26) weeks. In the event legislation differs, the legislation would prevail.
- (b) A family member is:
 - (i) Spouse, common-law partner, or domestic partner of the Employee
 - (ii) Child or parent of the Employee
 - (iii) Child of the Employee's spouse, common-law partner or domestic partner
 - (iv) Spouse or common-law partner of the parent of the Employee (e.g. Employee's step-mother)
 - (v) Any other person who is a member of a class of persons prescribed in the regulations for the purpose of this definition.
- (c) Employees' jobs are protected while on this leave.
- (d) Employees have to provide a medical certificate from a medical professional saying that their family member fits the above description.

- (e) Employees can choose to maintain a benefit plan, offered by the Employer, while on the leave.

16.15 Leave for Birth of Child / or Adoption

- (a) Where an Employee's spouse gives birth to a child, the Employee shall be granted special leave with pay up to a maximum of one (1) regular work day. This leave may be divided into two (2) periods and taken on separate days.
- (b) An Employee shall be granted one (1) regular work day with pay for the purpose of adoption of a child. This leave may be divided into two (2) periods and granted on separate days. If both parents are eligible for such leave as an Employee, the amount of paid leave taken under this clause by either one or both parents shall not exceed one (1) regular work day.

*16.16 Volunteer Firefighters and Ground Search and Rescue

Subject to operational requirements, every consideration will be given to granting a leave of absence with pay to an Employee who is a member of a volunteer fire department or volunteer ground search and rescue organization when an Employee is called out during work hours.

16.17 Special Leave

The Employer, in any one year, may grant to an employee:

- (a) special leave without pay, for such a period as it deems circumstances warrant;
- (b) special leave with pay for reasons other than those specified herein, for such period as it deems circumstances warrant.

16.18 Leave of Absence Without Pay

Work assignments with another employer, compassionate leave and long term disability are considered leaves without pay. Unless otherwise stated in this agreement an employee is not considered to be earning service on the aforementioned leaves.

***16.19 Critically Ill Child Care Leave**

The Employer shall grant a leave without pay to an employee who provides care to a critically ill or injured child, in accordance with sections 60K to 60S of the *Labour Standards Code*.

***16.20 Critically Ill Adult Care Leave**

The Employer shall grant a leave without pay to an employee who provides care to a critically ill or injured adult, in accordance with sections 60SC to 60SI of the *Labour Standards Code*.

***16.21 Blood Donors**

Canadian Blood Services has the support of the Government of Nova Scotia and its agencies. Employees who wish to give blood may be excused from work for one (1) paid hour.

ARTICLE 17 - GROUP INSURANCE & PENSION PLANS

17.01 Each Employee shall, as a condition of employment, participate in the Employer's basic life, accidental death & dismemberment, long-term disability, health and dental plans, except as expressly provided otherwise in the plan policies.

17.02 The Employer and Employee shall cost share the group insurance plans on a 65/35 basis respectively, except for basic life insurance which shall be paid fully by the Employee.

17.03 Pension

Employees shall participate in the Employer's Registered Pension Plan.

17.04 Employees are required to pay their share of the group insurance premiums for the following approved unpaid leaves:

1. The unpaid periods beyond the 100 short term disability days as follows:
 - a) While in receipt of EI sick leave benefits
 - b) While awaiting approval of application for LTD
 - c) While awaiting the results of an appeal for LTD

2. WCB temporary earnings replacement

Where the employee opts in writing to maintain the benefit plan referred to in article 17.01 the employee shall enter into an arrangement with the employer to continue the cost share arrangement as specified by 17.02. The Employee will be required to sign a letter of agreed understanding that default of payments will result in termination of group coverage subsequent to thirty (30) day notice period.

ARTICLE 18 - SICK LEAVE

18.01 Sick Leave General Illness

An Employee unable to work due to illness or injury for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive days may be granted general illness leave with pay. The maximum number of days that may be approved is eighteen (18) days per year (April 1 to March 31). Sick days are not cumulative.

18.02 An Employee who is unable to perform their duties due to illness or injury for a period exceeding three (3) days may be granted leave of absence at full or partial pay for each incidence of short-term illness in accordance with the following formula:

<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
Less than 12 months service	20 workdays @ 100% of normal salary
	80 workdays @ 75% of normal salary
12 months service or greater	40 workdays @ 100% of normal salary
	60 workdays @ 75% of normal salary

18.03 Where an incidence of short-term illness continues from one (1) year of employment to the following year of employment, the Employee's benefit entitlement for that incidence of short-term illness leave shall be payable in accordance with the provisions of Article 18.02 during the length of service period in which the short-term illness commenced.

18.04 An Employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and within thirty (30) consecutive work days again becomes unable to work because of the same illness or injury shall be considered to be within the original short-term leave period defined in Article 18.02.

- 18.05 An Employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and after working thirty (30) consecutive working days, again becomes unable to work because of the same illness or injury, shall be considered to be in a new illness leave period and entitled to the full benefits defined in Article 18.02.
- 18.06 An Employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and within thirty (30) consecutive workdays becomes unable to work because of an illness or injury unrelated to the illness or injury that caused the previous absence shall be considered to be in a new illness leave period and entitled to the full benefits.
- 18.07 An Employee who has returned to work on a trial basis and becomes unable to work again shall be considered to be within the original short-term leave period as defined above.

18.08 Proof of Illness

The Employer may require an Employee to provide a certificate acceptable to the Employer from a legally qualified medical practitioner covering any period of absence for which sick leave is claimed. If the Employee is unable to provide the certificate, then the value of the lost time will be deducted from the Employee's pay.

- 18.09 In the event that the Employer has reason to believe that an Employee is misusing sick leave privileges, a standing directive may be issued requiring that Employee to submit a medical certificate covering every period of sick leave.
- 18.10 It is acceptable for the Employer, when it deems necessary, to request that the Employee visit a qualified medical practitioner for a second opinion as to their inability to work.

18.11 Proof of Return to Work

Where the Employer has reason to believe that the Employee may not be able to perform the duties associated with their position when returning to work after illness, it may request that the Employee obtain a certificate from a qualified medical practitioner confirming their ability to return to work.

18.12 Sick Leave While on Vacation

If an Employee becomes ill for a period of three (3) or more consecutive working days while on vacation and if the illness is supported by a certificate acceptable to the Employer from a qualified medical practitioner, the Employee shall be granted sick leave for that period. If sick leave is granted in these circumstances, the Employee's vacation is credited to the extent of the sick leave.

18.13 Ongoing Therapy

Employees who are participating in a scheduled ongoing series of medically required treatments or therapy shall be eligible to accumulate time off for such purposes in order that it may be credited under the provisions of Short Term Illness Leave. In order to be deemed as ongoing treatment or therapy, the time between successive sessions shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

18.14 Employer Approval

An Employee shall be granted sick leave with pay when he is unable to perform his duties because of illness or injury provided that he satisfies the Employer of this condition in such manner and at such time as may be determined by the Employer, and provided he has the necessary sick leave credits.

18.15 Employee Assistance Program

The Employer agrees to continue to provide at least the same level of service through the Employee Assistance Program as provided on the signing date of this agreement.

ARTICLE 19 - EMPLOYEE FILES AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

19.01 Access To File

The Employer shall keep an Official Employment File of every Employee in its employ. The Official Employment File shall be available to the Employee for viewing during regular business hours at the office with reasonable notice.

19.02 Confidentiality

The contents of an Employee's Official Employment File shall be treated with the strictest confidence.

19.03 Employee Performance Review

The Employee shall be given an opportunity to discuss the performance review and make written comments. The Employee shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) working days to consider the performance review document before making written comments. The Employee and Employer shall jointly sign the review document confirming that the information has been reviewed and discussed. The Employee shall receive a signed copy of the document.

19.04 Records Deemed Removed

Where written documentation of disciplinary action exists in an Employee's file and where formal disciplinary action has not occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) months of work following the date of the written documentation, that documentation shall be removed from the Employee's file.

ARTICLE 20 - DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

20.01 Just Cause

No Employee who has completed his probationary period shall be disciplined, suspended without pay or discharged except for just and sufficient cause.

*20.02 Union Representation

The employer will advise an employee that they have the right to Union representation where an employee is required to attend a meeting with the Employer for the purpose of being advised of a suspension without pay or discharge. Should the Union be unavailable, the employer may proceed with the suspension or discharge meeting in the Union's absence.

20.03 Notification

- (a) Where an Employee is disciplined, suspended without pay or discharged, the Employer shall, within ten (10) working days of the suspension, or discharge, notify the Employee in writing by registered mail or by personal service stating the reason for the suspension, or discharge.
- (b) The Employer will notify the Union when an Employee is suspended or discharged.

20.04 Grievances

Where an Employee alleges that they have been disciplined, suspended or discharged in violation of Article 20.01, they may within fifteen (15) working days of the date on which they were notified in writing or within twenty (20) days of the date of their discipline, suspension or discharge, whichever is later, invoke the grievance procedure including provisions for Arbitration, and for the purpose of a grievance alleging violation of Article 20.01, they shall lodge their grievance at Step Two of the grievance procedure and the provisions of Article 22 shall apply.

20.05 Reinstatement

Where it is determined that an Employee has been disciplined by suspension without pay or by discharge in violation of Article 20.01 and where the Employee is reinstated in their former position the reinstatement shall be without loss of service or any other benefit which would have accrued to them if they had not been suspended or discharged.

ARTICLE 21 - NOTICE OF RESIGNATION

21.01 Notice of Resignation

If an Employee desires to terminate their employment, they shall forward a letter of resignation to the Employer not less than ten (10) days prior to the effective date of termination, provided however that the Employer may accept a shorter period of notice.

21.02 Failure to Give Notice

An Employee who fails to give notice required by Article 21.01, shall be struck from the payroll effective the day they absents themselves without leave, and shall have deducted from monies owed by the Employer, a sum equivalent to the salary payable to them for the period of notice which they failed to work.

*21.03 Absence Without Permission

- (a) An Employee who is absent from their employment without permission for five (5) consecutive working days shall be deemed to have resigned their position effective the first day of their absence.
- (b) The Employee may be reinstated if they establishes to the satisfaction of the Employer, that their absence arose from a cause beyond their control and it was not possible for the Employee to notify the Employer of the reason for their absence.

*21.04 Withdrawal of Resignation

An Employee, who has terminated their employment through resignation, may withdraw their resignation within five (5) consecutive working days of the time it was submitted to the Employer pursuant to Article 21.01.

***ARTICLE 22 - GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION**

22.01 An Employee who considers they are aggrieved by an action of the Employer, should first discuss the matter with their immediate supervisor. Failing satisfactory settlement of the dispute, and with the approval of the union in writing, the matter may be presented as a grievance in accordance with the following:

22.02 Grievance Defined

Grievance shall be defined as any difference arising out of the interpretation, application, administration or alleged violation of the Collective Agreement. A complaint is not considered a grievance until such time as the specific articles of the collective agreement that are alleged to have been violated are identified on the grievance form.

22.03 Grievance Procedure

STEP ONE:

Where an Employee or the union has a grievance, the Union shall submit the grievance in writing to the Employee's immediate supervisor within fifteen (15) working days after the circumstances giving rise to the grievance have occurred or ought to have reasonably come to the attention of the Employee. The Supervisor shall give a response to the grievance in writing within fifteen (15) working days from the date the grievance was submitted.

STEP TWO:

If the Employee or the Union is not satisfied with the decision of the immediate Supervisor, the Union shall, may, within ten (10) working days of receiving the Step One decision of the immediate Supervisor, present the grievance in writing to the Director. The Director shall respond in writing within ten (10) working days after receipt of the grievance.

STEP THREE:

Failing a satisfactory settlement being reached in Step Two, the Union may refer the dispute to arbitration within fifteen (15) working days of the decision of the Director in Step Two. The provisions for arbitration contained in the Trade Union Act shall apply.

22.04 Right to Union Representative

In any case where the Employee presents their grievance in person or, in any case in which a hearing is held on a grievance at any level, the Employee shall be accompanied by a representative of the Union.

22.05 Days Excluded in Time Limits

In determining the time in which any step under the foregoing proceedings is to be taken, working day shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and recognized holidays. If advantage of the provisions of Article 22.03 have not been taken within the time limits as specified, the grievance shall be deemed to have been abandoned and cannot be reopened.

22.06 Extension of Time Limits

At the request of either party to this agreement, it may be mutually agreed to extend the time limits specified herein and such agreement shall not be unreasonably denied.

22.07 Policy Grievance

A policy grievance is one where either party disputes the general application or interpretation of this agreement. A policy grievance shall be initiated at Step Two of the grievance procedure. A policy grievance shall not apply in cases of individual grievances and, for greater clarity, no individual remedy shall be available.

22.08 Mediation

At any time before arbitration, the parties may mutually agree to submit the grievance to the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Conciliation Services Section for Grievance Mediation in an attempt to resolve the grievance. Time Limits shall be suspended during this process.

22.09 Expedited Arbitration

An expediated arbitration procedure shall apply where mutually agreed by the parties.

1. A single arbitrator shall be appointed to decide the grievance.
2. The parties will agree to a roster of single arbitrators who will be appointed pursuant to these Rules of Procedure. The parties may agree at any time to remove an arbitrator's name from the roster or to add an arbitrator's name to the roster.
3. The arbitrators will be paid in accordance with a schedule agreed to by the parties.
4. On a rotating basis, an arbitrator's availability will be reviewed. Where the parties are able to schedule dates which are agreeable to all and which allow the hearing of the grievance to be convened not later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of the arbitrator's appointment, the parties will make arrangements to have the arbitrator appointed. Where, however, the parties are unable to schedule dates which are agreeable to all, the

- availability of the next arbitrator in the rotation shall be reviewed, and so on, until an arbitrator is appointed.
5. At least ten (10) business days prior to the date of the hearing the parties and/or their representatives shall meet for the following purposes:
 - to exchange copies of any documents that either party intends to rely on in the hearing;
 - to establish and attempt to agree on the facts relevant to the grievance;
 - to exchange copies of any precedents and authorities; and
 - to engage in discussions regarding the possible settlement of the grievance
 6. Should a dispute arise between the parties regarding compliance with the obligations outlined in paragraph 5 the issue in dispute may be referred for immediate and binding resolution to the arbitrator. This may be done by conference call between the arbitrator and the parties.
 7. At least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing date the parties shall forward to the arbitrator the collective agreement, a copy of the grievance, any agreed statement of facts and any other documents or materials agreed upon by the parties.
 8. The arbitration hearing shall be an informal and accelerated process. To this end, the following procedures shall be in effect:
 - The hearing shall be completed within a single day. At the commencement of the hearing the parties and the arbitrator shall attempt to agree upon the allocation of time and if agreement cannot be reached the arbitrator shall decide upon such allocation.
 - The parties shall make every reasonable effort to minimize the use of witnesses and to limit representations to issues directly related to the substance of the individual grievance. Whenever practicable, the parties shall stipulate facts not in dispute rather than establishing such facts through the evidence of witnesses.
 - Every reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that the grievance is addressed on its own merits, within the context of the particular circumstances of the individual case.
 - The arbitrator shall have the permission of the parties to take an activist role and to direct that issues be addressed, or not addressed, in the hearing in accordance with their determination as to its relevance to the outcome.
 9. The decision of the arbitrator on the merits of the grievance shall be rendered within fourteen (14) calendar days of the hearing. The arbitrator may provide brief written reasons for the decision.

10. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding on the parties, however, the parties agree that decisions issued through this process apply only to the individual grievance decided, have no value as precedent and that they shall not be referred to in any other proceedings under this collective agreement or otherwise.

ARTICLE 23 – SERVICE

- 23.01 (a) Service means paid hours from the most recent date of hire to a permanent position.
- (b) Notwithstanding (a) above, an Employee on Pregnancy, Parental or Adoption leave pursuant to Article 16 shall continue to accumulate service during the leave. For the avoidance of doubt, benefits will not accumulate during the foregoing leaves of absence.
- (c) An Employee on an approved leave of absence without pay of two (2) weeks or less shall continue to accumulate service. If the leave is in excess of two (2) weeks, service shall be retained but will not accumulate during the leave period.
- (d) An Employee on unpaid leave of absence resulting from sickness or disability shall retain service for a period up to twenty-four (24) months but service shall not accumulate during the period of leave. If at the conclusion of the twenty-four month period the prognosis is that the Employee will be unable to return to work, service will be lost pursuant to Article 23.02 and the employee will be considered to have retired and will be eligible to receive a Service Award. Under no circumstances shall an employee be eligible for a Service Award payment for time which an employee has previously earned service for and been compensated for under 26.01.

***23.02 Loss of Service**

An Employee shall lose service credits and their employment will be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Resignation, and the resignation has not been revoked by the Employee within five (5) consecutive working days of the Employer having been notified of the resignation.
- (b) Layoff which lasts more than eighteen (18) consecutive months.

- (c) Being recalled to work and failing to return to the service of the Employer within fourteen (14) calendar days of notice of recall.
- (d) Being absent from work for five (5) consecutive working days without notifying the Employer, unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond the Employee's control which prevented the notification.
- (e) Discharge
- (f) Leave of absence without pay in excess of the allowable period set out in Article 23.01 (d).

ARTICLE 24 - TRAVEL REGULATIONS

***24.01 Mileage Allowance**

An Employee who is authorized to use a privately owned automobile on the Employer's business shall be paid a kilometrage allowance in accordance with the following rates:

0 – 16,000 kms	45.85 cents/km (April 1, 2019)
Over 16,000 kms	40.46 cents/km (April 1, 2019)

Employees who travelled more than 8,000 km in the previous year on Housing Authority business or who are expected to travel more than 8,000 km on Housing Authority business during the upcoming year may apply to their Employer to receive a monthly travel allowance. The decision to grant a monthly travel allowance is one that resides solely with the Employer.

An employee approved to receive a monthly car allowance would receive the following:

April 1, 2019 \$356.40 per month plus \$26.29 cents/km

This rate will be adjusted annually (up or down) on April 1 of any subsequent year of this agreement. This adjustment will be based on the annual average year over year percentage changes in the Nova Scotia Private Transportation Index for the calendar year preceding the April 1 effective change date, as calculated by Statistics Canada. The calculation

is based on the calendar year January to December percentage changes over January to December.

24.02 Other Expenses

Reasonable expenses incurred by Employees on the business of the Employer may be reimbursed by the Employer subject to the Employer's approval.

24.03 Subject to Article 24.02, an Employee required to travel on business for the Employer may claim a per diem meal allowance in respect of meals, that are not otherwise provided, in accordance with the following:

Breakfast \$8.00 per day may be claimed when the Employee has been traveling on the Employer's business for more than one hour before the recognized time for the start of the day's work.

Lunch \$15.00 per day

Dinner \$20.00 per day may be claimed when the Employee is not expected to return to their residence before 6:30 pm.

ARTICLE 25 - PAY PROVISIONS

25.01 Rates of Pay

The rates of pay as set out in Schedule A shall form part of this Agreement.

25.02 Rate of Pay Upon Appointment

Subject to Article 25.03, the rate of compensation of the person upon appointment to a position shall be the minimum rate prescribed for the class to which the employee is appointed.

25.03 Exception

The rate of compensation of a person upon appointment to a position may be at a rate higher than the minimum rate prescribed for the class if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to effect the appointment of a qualified person to the position or if the person to be appointed to the position has qualifications in excess of the minimum requirements for the position.

25.04 Rate of Pay Upon Promotion

Subject to Article 25.05, the rate of compensation of a person upon promotion to a position in a higher pay range shall be at the next higher rate or the minimum of the new class, whichever is greater, than that received by the Employee before the promotion.

25.05 Exception

The rate of compensation of an Employee upon promotion to a position may be at a rate higher than that prescribed in Article 25.04 if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to effect the promotion of a qualified person to the position.

25.06 Rate of Pay Upon Demotion

The rate of compensation of an Employee upon demotion to a position in a lower pay range shall be at the next lowest rate or the maximum of the new class, whichever is lesser, than that received by the Employee before the demotion.

25.07 Anniversary Date

The anniversary date of an Employee shall be the day of the month in which employment begins. The anniversary date will only change to another day if:

- (a) the Employee is reclassified, at which time the date of the reclassification becomes his new anniversary date;
- (b) the Employee has been on leave of absence without pay, in which case the Employee's anniversary date will be moved forward by the amount of time which the Employee was on leave without pay, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement.

25.08 Rate of Pay Upon Reclassification

Where an Employee is recommended for a reclassification which falls on their anniversary date the Employee's salary shall be adjusted first by the implementation of their annual increment, provided they are recommended and an increment is available in their present pay range, and on the same

date their salary shall be adjusted upward to comply with the provisions of Articles 25.04 and 25.05.

25.09 Salary Increments

The Employer may grant an increment for meritorious service after an Employee has served for a period of twelve (12) months following the day established in Article 25.07 or twelve (12) months following the date of a change in his rate of compensation as established in Articles 25.04, 25.05, or 25.06.

25.10 Granting of Withheld Increment

When an increase provided for in Article 25.09 is withheld, the increase may be granted at any time after the increase was withheld.

25.11 Acting Pay

- (a) Where an Employee is designated to perform the principal duties of a higher paying position for a period in excess of three (3) consecutive days, either because of the temporary absence of the incumbent or because the higher position is vacant and approved for refill, they shall receive acting pay, including the three (3) days, equivalent to ten (10%) percent higher than the Employee's existing rate provided that the acting pay shall not exceed the maximum of the higher paying position.
- (b) Contributions to group insurance benefits continue at the Employee's regular rate of pay. Pension benefits are paid on the new rate of pay.
- (c) Acting pay shall not be awarded to an Employee whose position description normally requires periodic substitution in a higher position.
- (d) Acting pay provisions do not preclude the right of the Employer to assign duties of any Employee among remaining Employees of the work unit where temporary absences occur.

*25.12 New Classification

- (a) Before implementing a new bargaining unit classification, the Employer shall provide the Union with a copy of the position description.

- (b) The Employer may implement the new classification and attach a salary to it, providing that the Union is given ten (10) work days' written notice in advance.
- (c) The parties shall agree on the rate of pay for the new classification based on internal relativity within the Housing Authority and bargaining unit.
- (d) If the parties fail to agree on the new rate the Union may file a policy grievance under Article 22.07 within thirty (30) work days of receiving a copy of the position description and the Employer's proposed rate of pay.
- (e) In assessing the rate of pay, the Arbitrator must maintain internal relativity with NSGEU Housing Authority classifications. In evaluating internal relativity, the relevant factors shall be:
 - Typical duties of the position
 - Degree of independence and judgement
 - Diversity and complexity of the work
 - Education and experience
 - Level of direct supervision

The rate of pay shall be effective on the date agreed to by the parties or the date set by the Arbitrator but, in any event, not earlier than the date of implementation of the new classification.

*25.13 Substantially Altered Classifications

- (a) When a classification covered by this agreement is substantially altered on or after April 1, 2019, the rate of pay shall be subject to negotiations between the Employer and the Union. The Employer may implement a new rate of pay and attach a salary to it, providing that the Union is given ten (10) business days' written notice in advance.
- (b) If the parties are unable to agree on the rate of pay for the substantially altered classification, the Union may refer the matter to a single arbitrator in accordance with Article 22.09.

In assessing the rate of pay, the Arbitrator must maintain internal relativity with NSGEU Housing Authority classifications. In evaluating internal relativity, the relevant factors shall be:

- Typical duties of the position
- Degree of independence and judgement
- Diversity and complexity of the work
- Education and experience
- Level of direct supervision

(c) The new rate of pay shall be effective on the date agreed to by the parties or the date set by the Arbitrator but, in any event, not earlier than twenty-five (25) days before the Union filed a grievance in the matter.

ARTICLE 26 - PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

***26.01**

- (a) Subject to Article 26.01 (a) below, an employee who was employed on or before April 1, 2015 and ceases to be employed after April 1, 2015 either by retirement or resignation from employment, and is immediately eligible for and immediately accepts a pension pursuant to the provisions of the Employer's pension plan, shall be granted a Public Service Award equal to one (1) week's pay for each year of full-time service to a maximum of twenty-six (26) years. The amount will include a prorated payment for a partial year of service.
- (b) The amount of Public Service Award provided under Article 26.01 (a) shall be calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Annual Salary} = 1 \text{ week}$$

***26.02 Entitlement**

- (a) The entitlement of an Employee to a Public Service Award shall be based on an Employee's total service as defined in Article 1.07, as of April 1, 2015. Employees hired after April 1, 2015, whether or not they have previous service, shall not be entitled to a Public Service Award.
- (b) An Employee who receives severance pay in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 is not entitled to a Public Service Award.

26.03 Death Prior to Retirement

Where an Employee dies and they would have been entitled to receive a Public Service Award if they had retired from the Employer immediately before their death, the Public Service Award to which they would have been entitled shall be paid to their beneficiary under the Group Life Insurance Policy or, to their estate if there is no such beneficiary.

26.04 Trustee

Where the person to whom a Public Service Award is payable has not attained the age of nineteen (19) years or in the opinion of the Governor in Council, is not capable of managing their affairs by reason of infirmity, illness or other cause, the Public Service Award shall be paid to such person as the Governor in Council directs as trustee for the benefit of the person entitled to receive the Award.

*26.05 Calculation of Award

- (a) The salary which shall be used to calculate the amount of the Public Service Award in accordance with this Article shall be the salary which the Employee was receiving on the date of the termination of their employment.
- (b) An Employee who receives severance pay in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 is not entitled to a Public Service Award.
- (c) An employee who received a payment in lieu of the Retirement Allowance is not entitled to a Retirement Allowance, at the time of retirement, for service accrued to March 31, 2015.

ARTICLE 27 - LAYOFF AND RECALL

27.01 Layoff shall mean a reduction in the number of Permanent Employees resulting from shortage of work.

*27.02(a) In the event of the need for a layoff, an Employee may voluntarily request to be laid off and if such request is granted by the Employer, the Employee shall be entitled to the provisions of Article 27.03 and 27.04. Where there are no voluntary layoffs, Article 27.02 (b) shall apply.

- (b) Where ability, experience, qualifications and special skills are equal, as determined by the Employer, Employees shall be laid off in reverse order of seniority.
- (c) Seniority is defined as an Employee's length of continuous employment since their most recent date of hire in the bargaining unit.

27.03 Union Consultation

Where an Employee(s) is to be laid off, the Employer will advise and consult with the Union as soon as reasonably possible with a view to minimizing the adverse effects of the decision to lay off an Employee(s).

*27.04 The layoff shall be a termination of employment and recall rights shall lapse if the layoff lasts more than eighteen (18) consecutive months.

27.05 Recall Procedure

- (a) Employees who are laid off shall be placed on a recall list.
- (b) A laid off Employee shall be recalled in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 27.02 (b).
- (c) The Employer shall give notice of recall by registered mail to the Employee's last recorded address. Employees are responsible for keeping the Employer informed of their current address.
- (d)
 - (i) An Employee's refusal to accept recall for occasional work or for employment of short duration while they are employed elsewhere, shall not constitute loss of service as contemplated by Article 23.02 (c).
 - (ii) A return to work for short duration or casual shifts shall not constitute a break in the recall period and for greater clarity upon completion of the work assignment the recall period shall not be re-started.
- (e) No Employee shall be hired to fill a vacant position where an Employee on the recall list has the required ability, experience, qualifications and special skills for the position.

- *27.06 (a) At the end of the eighteen (18) month recall period, or at any earlier time if an Employee who is in receipt of a notice of layoff wishes to terminate employment and waive recall rights, the Employee shall be granted severance pay equal to four (4) weeks pay for every year of service to a maximum of fifty-two (52) weeks pay and for a minimum of four (4) weeks pay. Where there is a partial year of service, the severance pay will be pro-rated accordingly.
- (b) The amount of severance pay shall be calculated by the formula:
- $$\text{bi-weekly rate} \times \frac{26}{12} = \text{one month}$$
- (c) The entitlement of an Employee to severance pay shall be based on an Employee's total service as defined in Article 1.07.

27.07 Notice of Layoff

Where possible, the Employer shall notify Employees who are to be laid off twenty (20) working days prior to the effective date of layoff; but in no event shall the layoff be less than ten (10) working days. Subject to the foregoing, the Employee shall be paid for those days for which work was not made available, but for which the Employee was scheduled to work.

ARTICLE 28 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

28.01 Occupational Health and Safety Act

The Parties agree to be bound by the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, S.N.S. 1996, c7 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

28.02 Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

- (a) The Employer agrees to the establishment of a single Joint Health and Safety Committee comprised of equal representation of the Union and the Employer in accordance with the Act.
- (b) The Joint Committee will meet and establish its own rules of procedure in accordance with the Act.
- (c) The Joint Committee's responsibilities will include performing any duties required by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, or as the

Union and Employer may mutually agree from time to time to assign to the committee.

- (d) An Employee who is a member of the committee is entitled to time off from work with pay and shall be reimbursed expenses incurred, as is necessary to attend meetings of the Committee, to take any training prescribed by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations, and to carry out the Employee's functions as a member of the Committee.

28.03 First-Aid and CPR Training

In the interests of the occupational safety and health of Employees, the Employer will maintain a program of first-aid and CPR training and WHMIS training.

*28.04 The Employer shall provide all safety equipment necessary for the occupational safety and health of employees, as determined by the Occupational Health & Safety Act.

*28.05 Safety Footwear: Assistant Client Services Coordinator

The following shall apply to Assistant Client Services Coordinator employees who are required to perform property visits and inspections:

- (a) Each Employee shall be reimbursed up to one hundred-fifty dollars (\$150.00), excluding taxes, per year, upon providing proof of purchase receipts, for CSA approved safety footwear.
- (b) The foregoing safety footwear shall only be worn while performing Employer business.

ARTICLE 29 – TERM OF AGREEMENT

29.01 This agreement shall be effective from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2023. This agreement shall be automatically renewed thereafter for successive periods of twelve (12) months unless either party requests the negotiation of a new agreement by giving written notice to the other party within the two (2) month period preceding the date of expiration of the Agreement.

29.02 It is agreed that there will be no retroactive effect given to any clause of this contract or matter arising between the parties prior to the signing date except for wages and kilometrage allowance or otherwise stated. Every effort will be made to pay retroactive wages within eight (8) weeks of the date of signing this agreement. A statement detailing the calculation of each Employee's retroactive wages shall be provided upon request.

29.03 Retroactive Pay for Terminated Employees

Employees, who have been laid off, retired or resigned from the bargaining unit between April 1, 2015 and date of signing of this collective agreement shall be entitled to full retroactivity of any applicable wage increase. Such employees shall be given written notice by registered mail sent by the Employer to the employee's last known address given to the Employer, that the employee has sixty (60) calendar days in which to claim any retroactive payment.

SIGNED at Halifax Nova Scotia, this 27th day of September, 2019.

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL
HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES UNION

Nancy MacLellan
Deputy Minister
Municipal Affairs and Housing

Jason MacLean
President
Nova Scotia Government and
General Employees Union

Jamie Vigliarolo
Director
Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority

Kerry Karsten
Bargaining Committee Member

Cari Burns
Human Resources
Housing Authority Services

Jennie Lee Orlando
Bargaining Committee Member

Matthew Spicer
Director
Public Service Commission

Kenneth Wood
Bargaining Committee Member

Elizabeth Kanyikwa
Employee Relations Officer
Nova Scotia Government and
General Employees Union

SCHEDULE A – WAGE RATES

In the event NSGEU Civil Service, CUPE Highway Workers, or any bargaining unit of the Health Authorities (IWK, NSHA) negotiates a greater general economic increase of 1.5% in year 7 and/or in year 8, NSGEU Local 47 has the option of accepting the greater benefit.

ADJUSTED CLASSIFICATIONS- PARITY SCALES

Full parity is achieved on April 1, 2022.

Maintenance Clerk

(Formerly Property Clerk)

Parity Scale -CL 13 to CL 18

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
0%	1-Apr-15	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
0%	1-Apr-16	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
1%	1-Apr-17	\$18.95	\$19.30	\$19.66	\$20.13	\$20.62
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$19.23	\$19.59	\$19.96	\$20.43	\$20.93
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$19.33	\$19.69	\$20.06	\$20.53	\$21.04
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-19	\$20.21	\$20.65	\$21.10	\$21.63	\$22.17
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$20.32	\$20.76	\$21.21	\$21.73	\$22.28
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-20	\$21.23	\$21.75	\$22.28	\$22.86	\$23.45
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$21.33	\$21.86	\$22.39	\$22.97	\$23.56
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-21	\$22.27	\$22.88	\$23.50	\$24.13	\$24.77
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-22	\$23.24	\$23.93	\$24.63	\$25.33	\$26.00

Collector
(Formerly Collector 1)

Parity Scale TE 18 to TE 20

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$23.29	\$24.20	\$25.25	\$26.31	\$27.35
0%	1-Apr-15	\$23.29	\$24.20	\$25.25	\$26.31	\$27.35
0%	1-Apr-16	\$23.29	\$24.20	\$25.25	\$26.31	\$27.35
1%	1-Apr-17	\$23.52	\$24.44	\$25.50	\$26.57	\$27.62
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$23.88	\$24.81	\$25.89	\$26.97	\$28.04
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$24.00	\$24.93	\$26.01	\$27.11	\$28.18
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-19	\$24.87	\$25.86	\$26.95	\$28.06	\$29.19
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$24.99	\$25.99	\$27.09	\$28.21	\$29.34
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-20	\$25.89	\$26.95	\$28.05	\$29.19	\$30.38
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$26.02	\$27.08	\$28.20	\$29.34	\$30.53
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-21	\$26.94	\$28.06	\$29.19	\$30.35	\$31.60
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-22	\$27.89	\$29.07	\$30.21	\$31.39	\$32.70

Income Review Clerk

Parity Scale- CL 18 to CL 20

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
0%	1-Apr-15	\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
0%	1-Apr-16	\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
1%	1-Apr-17	\$21.25	\$21.89	\$22.52	\$23.16	\$23.78
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$21.57	\$22.22	\$22.86	\$23.51	\$24.13
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$21.68	\$22.33	\$22.98	\$23.62	\$24.25
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-19	\$22.33	\$22.99	\$23.64	\$24.30	\$24.94
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$22.44	\$23.10	\$23.76	\$24.42	\$25.07
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-20	\$23.11	\$23.78	\$24.45	\$25.12	\$25.78
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$23.23	\$23.90	\$24.57	\$25.25	\$25.91
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-21	\$23.91	\$24.60	\$25.28	\$25.96	\$26.63
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-22	\$24.62	\$25.31	\$26.00	\$26.69	\$27.38

Assistant Client Services Coordinator

Parity Scale- PR 04 to PR 06		1	2	3	4	5	6
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$22.17	\$23.06	\$24.06	\$25.06	\$26.06	\$27.17
0%	1-Apr-15	\$22.17	\$23.06	\$24.06	\$25.06	\$26.06	\$27.17
0%	1-Apr-16	\$22.17	\$23.06	\$24.06	\$25.06	\$26.06	\$27.17
1%	1-Apr-17	\$22.39	\$23.29	\$24.30	\$25.31	\$26.32	\$27.44
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$22.73	\$23.64	\$24.67	\$25.69	\$26.72	\$27.85
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$22.84	\$23.76	\$24.79	\$25.82	\$26.85	\$27.99
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-19	\$23.68	\$24.63	\$25.68	\$26.75	\$27.83	\$29.02
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$23.80	\$24.76	\$25.81	\$26.88	\$27.97	\$29.17
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-20	\$24.66	\$25.66	\$26.73	\$27.85	\$28.98	\$30.23
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$24.78	\$25.79	\$26.87	\$27.99	\$29.13	\$30.38
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-21	\$25.67	\$26.72	\$27.81	\$28.99	\$30.17	\$31.47
1.50% + Adjustment	1-Apr-22	\$26.57	\$27.67	\$28.78	\$30.01	\$31.23	\$32.58

REGULAR CLASSIFICATION SCALES

Applications Clerk

Receptionist/Switchboard

CL 13

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
0%	1-Apr-15	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
0%	1-Apr-16	\$18.76	\$19.11	\$19.47	\$19.93	\$20.42
1%	1-Apr-17	\$18.95	\$19.30	\$19.66	\$20.13	\$20.62
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$19.23	\$19.59	\$19.96	\$20.43	\$20.93
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$19.33	\$19.69	\$20.06	\$20.53	\$21.04
1.50%	1-Apr-19	\$19.62	\$19.98	\$20.36	\$20.84	\$21.35
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$19.72	\$20.08	\$20.46	\$20.95	\$21.46
1.50%	1-Apr-20	\$20.01	\$20.39	\$20.77	\$21.26	\$21.78
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$20.11	\$20.49	\$20.87	\$21.37	\$21.89
1.50%	1-Apr-21	\$20.41	\$20.79	\$21.19	\$21.69	\$22.22
1.50%	1-Apr-22	\$20.72	\$21.11	\$21.50	\$22.01	\$22.55

Storeperson/Driver

TE 12

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$19.04	\$19.58	\$20.29	\$20.98	\$21.69
0%	1-Apr-15	\$19.04	\$19.58	\$20.29	\$20.98	\$21.69
0%	1-Apr-16	\$19.04	\$19.58	\$20.29	\$20.98	\$21.69
1%	1-Apr-17	\$19.23	\$19.78	\$20.49	\$21.19	\$21.91
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$19.52	\$20.07	\$20.80	\$21.51	\$22.24
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$19.62	\$20.17	\$20.90	\$21.62	\$22.35
1.50%	1-Apr-19	\$19.91	\$20.48	\$21.22	\$21.94	\$22.68
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$20.01	\$20.58	\$21.32	\$22.05	\$22.80
1.50%	1-Apr-20	\$20.31	\$20.89	\$21.64	\$22.38	\$23.14
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$20.41	\$20.99	\$21.75	\$22.49	\$23.25
1.50%	1-Apr-21	\$20.72	\$21.31	\$22.08	\$22.83	\$23.60
1.50%	1-Apr-22	\$21.03	\$21.63	\$22.41	\$23.17	\$23.96

Purchasing Admin Assistant

Purchasing Assistant

Community Relations Clerk

Accounts Payable Clerk

Cashier/Accounts Receivable Clerk

CL 18			1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14		\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
0%	1-Apr-15		\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
0%	1-Apr-16		\$21.04	\$21.67	\$22.30	\$22.93	\$23.54
1%	1-Apr-17		\$21.25	\$21.89	\$22.52	\$23.16	\$23.78
1.50%	1-Apr-18		\$21.57	\$22.22	\$22.86	\$23.51	\$24.13
0.50%	31-Mar-19		\$21.68	\$22.33	\$22.98	\$23.62	\$24.25
1.50%	1-Apr-19		\$22.00	\$22.66	\$23.32	\$23.98	\$24.62
0.50%	31-Mar-20		\$22.11	\$22.77	\$23.44	\$24.10	\$24.74
1.50%	1-Apr-20		\$22.44	\$23.12	\$23.79	\$24.46	\$25.11
0.50%	31-Mar-21		\$22.56	\$23.23	\$23.91	\$24.58	\$25.24
1.50%	1-Apr-21		\$22.89	\$23.58	\$24.27	\$24.95	\$25.61
1.50%	1-Apr-22		\$23.24	\$23.93	\$24.63	\$25.33	\$26.00

Senior Accounting Clerk

CL 22

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$24.16	\$24.79	\$25.54	\$26.10	\$26.73
0%	1-Apr-15	\$24.16	\$24.79	\$25.54	\$26.10	\$26.73
0%	1-Apr-16	\$24.16	\$24.79	\$25.54	\$26.10	\$26.73
1%	1-Apr-17	\$24.40	\$25.04	\$25.80	\$26.36	\$27.00
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$24.77	\$25.41	\$26.18	\$26.76	\$27.40
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$24.89	\$25.54	\$26.31	\$26.89	\$27.54
1.50%	1-Apr-19	\$25.26	\$25.92	\$26.71	\$27.29	\$27.95
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$25.39	\$26.05	\$26.84	\$27.43	\$28.09
1.50%	1-Apr-0	\$25.77	\$26.44	\$27.24	\$27.84	\$28.51
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$25.90	\$26.58	\$27.38	\$27.98	\$28.66
1.50%	1-Apr-21	\$26.29	\$26.97	\$27.79	\$28.40	\$29.09
1.50%	1-Apr-22	\$26.68	\$27.38	\$28.21	\$28.83	\$29.52

Collector
(Formerly Collector 2)

TE 20

		1	2	3	4	5
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$25.25	\$26.32	\$27.35	\$28.42	\$29.61
0%	1-Apr-15	\$25.25	\$26.32	\$27.35	\$28.42	\$29.61
0%	1-Apr-16	\$25.25	\$26.32	\$27.35	\$28.42	\$29.61
1%	1-Apr-17	\$25.50	\$26.58	\$27.62	\$28.70	\$29.91
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$25.89	\$26.98	\$28.04	\$29.13	\$30.35
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$26.01	\$27.12	\$28.18	\$29.28	\$30.51
1.50%	1-Apr-19	\$26.40	\$27.52	\$28.60	\$29.72	\$30.96
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$26.54	\$27.66	\$28.74	\$29.87	\$31.12
1.50%	1-Apr-20	\$26.93	\$28.08	\$29.17	\$30.32	\$31.59
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$27.07	\$28.22	\$29.32	\$30.47	\$31.74
1.50%	1-Apr-21	\$27.48	\$28.64	\$29.76	\$30.92	\$32.22
1.50%	1-Apr-22	\$27.89	\$29.07	\$30.21	\$31.39	\$32.70

Community Relations Officer

PR 08

		1	2	3	4	5	6
Expired Rate	1-Apr-14	\$26.06	\$27.17	\$28.28	\$29.50	\$30.71	\$31.94
0%	1-Apr-15	\$26.06	\$27.17	\$28.28	\$29.50	\$30.71	\$31.94
0%	1-Apr-16	\$26.06	\$27.17	\$28.28	\$29.50	\$30.71	\$31.94
1%	1-Apr-17	\$26.32	\$27.44	\$28.56	\$29.80	\$31.02	\$32.26
1.50%	1-Apr-18	\$26.72	\$27.85	\$28.99	\$30.24	\$31.48	\$32.74
0.50%	31-Mar-19	\$26.85	\$27.99	\$29.14	\$30.39	\$31.64	\$32.91
1.50%	1-Apr-19	\$27.25	\$28.41	\$29.57	\$30.85	\$32.11	\$33.40
0.50%	31-Mar-20	\$27.39	\$28.55	\$29.72	\$31.00	\$32.27	\$33.57
1.50%	1-Apr-20	\$27.80	\$28.98	\$30.17	\$31.47	\$32.76	\$34.07
0.50%	31-Mar-21	\$27.94	\$29.13	\$30.32	\$31.63	\$32.92	\$34.24
1.50%	1-Apr-21	\$28.36	\$29.56	\$30.77	\$32.10	\$33.42	\$34.76
1.50%	1-Apr-22	\$28.78	\$30.01	\$31.23	\$32.58	\$33.92	\$35.28

SCHEDULE B-TERM EMPLOYEES

Notwithstanding the term “Employee” as used in this agreement, Term Employees shall be covered by only the following articles or sub-articles of the collective agreement:

- Article 1 Definitions, in its entirety
- Article 2 Recognition, in its entirety
- Article 3 Joint Consultation and Labour Management, in its entirety
- Article 4 Management Rights, in its entirety
- Article 5 Strikes and Lockouts, in its entirety
- Article 6 Information, in its entirety
- Article 8 Job Posting- 8.01 A term vacancy pursuant to Article 1.09 shall be posted in accordance with Article 8.01 and 8.02 of the Collective Agreement.
- Article 9 Check Off, in its entirety
- Article 10 Union Activity, in its entirety
- Article 11 Hours of Work, in its entirety
- Article 12 Overtime, in its entirety
- Article 13 Injury on Duty
 - 13.01 Reporting of Injuries
 - 13.02 Injury Pay Provisions
 - 13.03 Alternate Medical Practitioner
 - 13.05 WCB Payments
 - 13.08 Vacation Carryover
 - 13.09 Sick Leave on WCB Waiting Period
- Article 14 Vacations- the Term Employee shall receive vacation pay equivalent to four percent (4%) of the Employee’s earnings.
- Article 15 Holidays, in its entirety

- Article 16 Special Leave
 16.01 Bereavement Leave, in its entirety
 16.02 Court Leave, in its entirety
 16.10 Medical and Dental Appointments, in its entirety, except the term Employee's leave of absence shall be two (2) days per annum.
 16.11 Storm Conditions, in its entirety
 16.15 Leave for Birth of Child / Adoption, in its entirety
 16.16 Volunteer Firefighters and Ground Search and Rescue
 16.17 Special Leave
- Article 18 Sick Leave
 18.01 The term Employee shall accumulate one (1) sick day per month in order to provide the Employee with paid sick leave in the event the Employee is unable to work due to illness or injury while the Employee is employed in the term position.
- Article 19 Employee Files and Performance Review, in its entirety
- Article 20 Discipline and Discharge-The Employer may terminate an Employee at any time by providing ten (10) days written notice or pay in lieu thereof.
- Article 22 Grievance and Arbitration, in its entirety
- Article 24 Travel, in its entirety
- Article 25 Pay Provisions - The term Employee shall be paid the Step 1 rate for the classification in which the Employee is employed.
- Article 28 Occupational Health and Safety, in its entirety
- Article 29 Term of Agreement, in its entirety

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING # 1 INTERREGIONAL MOBILITY

The Cobequid Housing Authority, Eastern Mainland Housing Authority, Metropolitan Housing Authority, Western Housing Authority and the NSGEU agree to meet during the term of this agreement to discuss interregional mobility within the above noted Housing Authorities.