

April 23, 2020

[Health.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Health.Minister@novascotia.ca)  
Minister Randy Delorey  
Minister of Health & Wellness  
1894 Barrington Street  
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 2R8

Dear Minister Delorey:

**Re: Ministerial Order**

Last evening we received copies of your Ministerial Order issued on Sunday April 19, 2020 and following our review the NSGEU does not believe the Health Authorities Act or the Public Service Act give you, as Minister, the absolute authority to direct the Nova Scotia Health Authority to breach its collective agreements with the unions representing their employees.

Furthermore, we believe your orders exceeded your Ministerial authority when you ordered the NSHA to redeploy its employees in a manner that was contrary to the collective agreements that are binding on the Health Authority. Neither the Health Authorities Act nor the Public Service Act give a Minister the power to do that.

The NSGEU recognizes there was and continues to be a crisis at Northwood Manor. We fully cooperated with government's request over the weekend to assist in the recruitment of volunteers and were surprised and disappointed with your decision to issue your orders on Sunday afternoon, without discussion or consultation.

The NSGEU is demanding an immediate withdrawal of your directives and ask that you advise the NSHA to respect the terms of the collective agreements to which it is a party. Furthermore, we ask that you meet with us without delay to continue to develop a plan that will allow us to cooperatively respond to the situation at Northwood.

In the meantime, we have instructed our legal counsel to review all legal options that are available to us in the event that you, as Minister, are unwilling to resolve this issue.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Jason MacLean  
President

JM/lb

c. Premier Stephen McNeil, [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)  
Dr. Brendan Carr, President & CEO, NSHA [Brendan.Carr@nshealth.ca](mailto:Brendan.Carr@nshealth.ca)