

October 20, 2021

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Premier Tim Houston
Office of the Premier

Health.Minister@novascotia.ca

Honourable Michelle Thompson
Minister of Health and Wellness

seniorsmin@novascotia.ca

Honourable Barbara Adams
Minister of Seniors & Long Term Care

Dear Premier & Honourable Ministers:

Re: NSGEU Home Care Members

I am writing to you today on behalf of the more than 1,700 members we represent working in the home care sector. These members are employed at a variety of agencies, located throughout the province.

I had the opportunity to meet with members of our Home Care Occupational Council earlier this week to discuss some of the challenges they are facing in their sector. As I am sure you are aware, as of February 2021, more than 17,000 Nova Scotians rely on home care supports that are delivered by 20 agencies contracted by the Nova Scotia Health Authority. We represent the majority of CCAs in home support agencies contracted by government. At a time when we are facing an aging population, and with long-term care beds at a premium, home care has never been a more critical part of our health care system. Yet, it is not treated with the same level of respect as long-term care or acute care, and there does not seem to be the same level of urgent concern surrounding the many challenges that exist in this sector, including but certainly not limited to the staffing shortages almost all agencies are facing.

I would like to first acknowledge your government for agreeing to extend the five per cent wage increase given to Care Team Assistants (CTAs) in the acute care sector to all Continuing Care Assistants (CCAs) working in the long-term care and home care sector. It is only right and fair that workers with the same training and qualifications receive this monetary increase, and it will make a meaningful difference to the lives of all CCAs working in our province, however, there is still a great deal that must be done to address the working conditions and inequities that exist for these workers.

In her letter marking Continuing Care Assistants Week (October 11th to 15th), Minister Adams committed to taking bold action to find solutions and make improvements to the continuing care system. We would like to assist with this work.

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Given that you recently conducted a tour of the acute care health care sector to hear directly from frontline health care workers delivering care within a hospital setting, we would like to invite you to meet with members of our Home Care Occupational Council as soon as the Fall sitting of the Legislature concludes.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jason MacLean
President

JML/lb