



**Labour, Skills and Immigration**  
**Office of the Minister**

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*VIA EMAIL*

Jason MacLean  
President  
Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU)  
255 John Savage Avenue  
Dartmouth NS B3B 0J3  
[jmaclean@nsgeu.ca](mailto:jmaclean@nsgeu.ca)  
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Dear Mr. MacLean:

Thank you for your letters of October 28, November 3, and November 4, and your questions and concerns regarding the province's recent decision to end its funding agreement with Island Employment.

I appreciate this is a difficult time for employees and I want to assure you that the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) is working diligently to support this required transition of employment services. The enclosed background document contains details about the decision to end the contract early and the work that is now taking place to secure another provider(s) in Cape Breton. I draw your attention to the following points:

- The Department's relationship with Island Employment is contractual to provide services as a Nova Scotia Works service provider. Based on requirements under that contract and recent findings, the department made the decision to end the funding agreement. The government has a responsibility to hold service providers, funded by taxpayers, to certain standards. The decision to close Island Employment was made by the Board and management as an independent organization.
- No further review is underway. We want to support individuals affected and ensure effective service delivery. The most efficient way to do this is to get a new provider in place, with new employment opportunities, as quickly as possible.
- The termination of the service agreement with Island Employment had nothing to do with the services the staff provide. LSI has communicated this with the interim service provider and will also share this with the permanent service provider(s) once in place.
- Island Employment has a collective agreement with the NSGEU. We will be honouring this agreement and in fact we will be providing additional support to help individuals bridge to new opportunities.

Thank you again for your letters and I trust this answers your questions. If you would like to meet to discuss further, please contact Donna Leal ([donna.leal@novascotia.ca](mailto:donna.leal@novascotia.ca)) to coordinate a meeting time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Balser", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Jill Balser  
Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration