

May 17, 2022

[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

Premier Tim Houston  
Office of the Premier  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier:

**Re: Fuel Prices in Nova Scotia**

First, let me introduce myself, I am Sandra Mullen, newly elected President of the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU).

I am writing to you about the historically high fuel price increases Nova Scotians are experiencing, and the impact these exorbitant costs are having on NSGEU members who are required to use their own vehicles to deliver public services.

Fuel prices have increased 51% since December 2021 and 62% since this time last year (May 2021). The NSGEU recognizes that mileage rates were increased on April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, however, that increase amounted to a mere 10%, bringing the rates from 46.15 cents/km to 51.13 cents/km. Premier, this simply is not enough to make up for what members are having to pay out of their own pockets to deliver public services.

This issue must be addressed immediately: these workers cannot afford to continue to shoulder these hardships alone, while serving some of our province's most vulnerable citizens.

We are both aware of the challenges our Home Care providers were having with recruitment and retention before gas prices skyrocketed. I am sure you can agree that expecting these workers to cover the cost of getting to and from their clients' homes will just make it harder to attract and retain workers to this line of work. We have heard from home care workers who are scared to buy groceries now, because they are worried they won't be able to afford to put gas in their vehicles for work.


Nova Scotians across the province depend on services delivered by Home Care workers, Social Workers, Case Aides, Inspectors, Public Health nurses, and many more. The workers who are providing these services need immediate relief and should not be out of pocket in order to provide government services that people rely on. This cannot go on and urgent action is needed to ensure these members can do their work and support their families.

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The NSGEU remains prepared to work with government to find an immediate solution to this problem.

I look forward to your reply,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Mullen".

Sandra Mullen  
President

SM/lb

- c. Hon. Allan MacMaster, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board  
[FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca](mailto:FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca)  
Hon. Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness –  
[Health.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Health.Minister@novascotia.ca)  
Hon. Barbara Adams, Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care -  
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