

**VIA EMAIL & COURIER: MIN-LSI@novascotia.ca**

July 3, 2024

The Honourable Jill Balsler  
Minister of Labour, Skills, and Immigration  
1505 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8

Dear Minister Balsler:

**Re: Nova Scotia Council of Healthcare Unions – Nova Scotia Health Authority  
Negotiation of an Essential Health and Community Services Agreement**

I am Chief Negotiator for the Nova Scotia Council of Health Care Unions (the "Council").

I am writing pursuant the Section 7(2) of the *Essential Health and Community Service Act* to request the appointment of a Conciliation Officer or a Mediation Officer to assist the Council and the Nova Scotia Health Authority (the "Health Authority") in their negotiation of an Essential Health and Community Services Agreement as required by Section 5 of the *Essential Health and Community Service Act*.

The Council and the Health Authority have been meeting since October of 2023 to negotiate the terms of an Essential Health and Community Services Agreement, but to date they have been unable to conclude an agreement.

The Council has concluded that the parties require the assistance of a Conciliation Officer or a Mediation Officer in order to reach a final agreement.

The Council believes that it will be able to reach an agreement with the Health Authority if the parties meet over several consecutive days with a Conciliation Officer or a Mediation Officer.

The Council therefore requests that you exercise the authority you have under Section 7(2) of the *Essential Health and Community Service Act* and appoint a Conciliation Officer or a Mediation Officer to assist the parties with their negotiations.

Yours very truly,



Lynette Johnson, Lead Negotiator  
Nova Scotia Council of Healthcare Unions  
ALJ/sc

cc. Peter Lloyd, Chief Conciliation and Mediation Officer, Conciliation and Mediation Services, of the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration ([Arbitration@novascotia.ca](mailto:Arbitration@novascotia.ca))  
Patrick Saulnier, Labour Law Department, Legal Services, Nova Scotia Health ([Patrick.Saulnier@nshealth.ca](mailto:Patrick.Saulnier@nshealth.ca))