

premier@novascotia.ca

May 6, 2025

Honourable Tim Houston
Office of the Premier

Dear Premier,

Re: Parking at the QEII and IWK

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) members working at the QEII Health Sciences Centre and the IWK Health Centre. Parking at the QEII and IWK is a problem that has stretched far too long and requires both short term and long-term solutions.

While the NSGEU supports your government's campaign commitment to eliminate parking fees at healthcare facilities, the recent implementation of this policy on May 1, 2025, has regrettably caused a significantly worse parking situation for our members working in downtown Halifax.

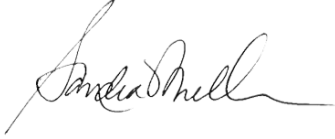
Since the introduction of free parking, we have received numerous reports from our members stating that finding parking near their worksites has become near impossible. As you are aware, the Halifax Infirmary, Victoria General Hospital, and IWK Health Centre are located in a densely populated area, and the existing parking infrastructure has been further strained by the removal of fees, ongoing construction, and the removal of street parking.

The unintended consequence of this well-intentioned policy is that healthcare workers are now facing a worsening situation in finding parking, even when arriving significantly earlier for their shifts. This situation is causing immense frustration and will undoubtedly become a serious issue in relation to future recruitment and retention. Our members are dedicated professionals, but being unable to find parking before commencing each day's shift is untenable. Well before these changes, we were told by members that they staff have actually taken positions outside the downtown core to avoid the ongoing parking issues. Neither of these facilities can afford to lose staff.

The NSGEU requests your immediate attention to this critical issue and work with Nova Scotia Health, the IWK, and the NSGEU to develop and implement concrete, short-term and long-term solutions to alleviate the parking crisis for healthcare workers in downtown Halifax.

We look forward to your prompt response and a commitment to addressing this urgent matter to ensure our dedicated healthcare professionals can focus on their vital work without the added burden and stress of inadequate parking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Mullen", with a stylized, flowing script.

Sandra Mullen
President

SM/ddt

- c. Karen Oldfield, Interim President & CEO, NSH, (Via email: karen.oldfield@nshealth.ca)
Dr. Krista Jangaard, President & CEO, IWK, (Via email: krista.jangaard@iwk.nshealth.ca)