

From: Sampson, Chloe
Sent: Wed, 23 Apr 2025 13:08:51 +0000
To: Wadden, Lindsay A
Cc: Burke, Alex
Subject: For Approval: Issues Summary on NSCC Food Services
Attachments: IS_NSCC Food Services.docx

Hi Lindsay,

For your approval, please see the attached issues summary on the change to NSCC's food delivery service.

Thanks,
Chloe

Chloe Sampson
Communications Advisor
Department of Advanced Education
Province of Nova Scotia
t: 902-717-9479 | e: Chloe.Sampson@novascotia.ca

ISSUES SUMMARY

April 23, 2025

Lead Department: Advanced Education

Related Department: Labour Relations

Changes to delivery of food services at NSCC: Starting in the 2025-26 school year, Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) will be sole sourcing food services for all 14 campuses to Aramark. The change will affect 29 NSGEU employees currently working on four campuses serviced by Chartwells and two community-based food service providers.

Stats & Data:

- Currently, NSCC oversees food services at eight campuses, four campuses are served by Chartwells, and two are operated by local third parties.
- Usage of food service on campuses varies between 12 and 37 per cent with weekly sales of between \$14,00 and \$8,400. Student concerns about price and quality are widespread.

17(1); 17(1)(e)

Messages:

- We are aware NSCC is making updates to how food services are delivered on their campuses and that they have been working with vendors and staff to ensure a smooth transition, including continued employment for vendor staff.
- As NSCC is responsible for campus food service, questions are best directed to the college.
- Through Nova Scotia Works Employment Services Centres, the province offers free training and support to anyone who is in the job market.

From: Barbrick, Tracey L
Sent: Wed, 16 Apr 2025 09:46:59 +0000
To: Wadden, Lindsay A
Cc: Burke, Alex; Thibeau, Tina D
Subject: FW: NSCC Briefing note - Food Services
Attachments: Confidential - NSCC Food Service Briefing .docx

Lindsay – I spoke with Don about this last week. Tendering out the rest of their cafeteria's. Take a peek. I think this is a "no surprises" approach – not seeking approval.

From: Bureaux, Don
Sent: April 15, 2025 8:39 AM
To: Barbrick, Tracey L
Subject: NSCC Briefing note - Food Services

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Good morning Tracey:

As per our chat Friday re: Food Services at NSCC, please see attached.

If you have any questions, please just let me know.

Warm regards,

Don

Don Bureaux
 President & CEO

Nova Scotia Community College
 Office: 902-491-4898
 Mobile: 902-222-2535
 Web: nsc.ca

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NSCC Ancillary Services: changes to delivery of food services**Background:**

NSCC offers regular food service at 14 locations:

Eight (8) operated by NSCC:

- Sydney Waterfront
- Strait Area
- Pictou
- Cumberland
- Akerley
- Lunenburg
- Burridge
- Shelburne

These locations are staffed by 29 full-time continuing employees who are members of NSGEU.

Four (4) operated by Chartwells:

- Kingstec
- IT (Leeds St.)
- Ivany
- Truro campus

NSCC has a contract with Chartwells for service at these four locations, from 2017-2033, with the option to end the contract with 90 days' notice.

Two operated by local third parties:

- Annapolis Valley
- COGS (Lawrencetown)

AVC has an arrangement with a couple retired from the food industry to run a cafeteria at AVC and with a community member to run a canteen at COGS. There are no costs to NSCC other than propane for the stoves, and incidental cleaning and supplies, roughly \$11,500/year for both locations.

Feasibility of current food service delivery model:

An analysis of sales at all locations shows significant financial losses: The eight locations operated by NSCC are forecasting a \$829,500 loss for fiscal year 2025/26.

Of the four Chartwells operated locations, only one, Truro, makes a profit. NSCC receives a commission from Chartwells, negotiated at 16% of sales. For the last two years, Chartwells has asked for and been granted a reduced commission of 10% due to low sales. They are looking for the same reduction or want to end the contract.

April 14, 2025

The quality offered at the four Chartwells locations varies greatly. At two campuses (IT and Truro), students consistently complain about quality of food and price. At the other two campuses, pricing is a concern, but the food quality is superior. Attempts to work with Chartwells on these issues has not been successful.

Student and staff usage of food service on campuses varies greatly. Akerley (NSCC run) campus has the highest usage and sales with 37% of students attending the cafeteria and weekly sales of approximately \$14,000. IT campus (Chartwells) has the lowest usage with just 12% of students and average weekly sales of \$8,400.

Opportunity:

Aramark has approached NSCC to discuss food service opportunities. Based on a prior tendering process, we are able to negotiate a sole-source contract with Aramark.

This will require NSCC to end the contract with Chartwells for the four locations they operate and will require the layoff of 29 NSGEU employees.

Early negotiations indicate that Aramark will:

17(1)(e)

The Collective Agreement with the NSGEU has very specific requirements for the contracting out of services. NSCC must provide notice to the union, notice to individual employees, and severance should employees not be re-hired by Aramark.

NSCC will work with the NSCC Foundation to continue to support breakfast programs, lunch vouchers, etc as ways to address food insecurity.

Timeline:

We anticipate transitioning to this model by the start of the 2025-2026 academic year, with communication to the employees affected in May 2025.

From: Wadden, Lindsay A
Sent: Wed, 16 Apr 2025 13:54:04 +0000
To: Sampson, Chloe; To, Cheryl
Subject: FW: NSCC Briefing note - Food Services
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FYI – please keep confidential. Chloe – this is a heads up as there may be some media coverage on the layoffs in the May timeframe as indicated.

From: Barbrick, Tracey L
Sent: April 16, 2025 6:47 AM
To: Wadden, Lindsay A
Cc: Burke, Alex ; Thibeau, Tina D
Subject: FW: NSCC Briefing note - Food Services

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From: Bureaux, Don <Don.Bureaux@nsc.ca>
Sent: April 15, 2025 8:39 AM
To: Barbrick, Tracey L <Tracey.Barbrick@novascotia.ca>
Subject: NSCC Briefing note - Food Services

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