



30 Frazee Avenue  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B3B 1X4 469-1474, 1-800-469-1474  
[www.nsnu.ns.ca](http://www.nsnu.ns.ca)

## **News Release - for immediate release**

### **Nurses accept Acute Care and Long Term Care Agreements**

**(Halifax, April 20, 2011)** When the polls closed at noon today, it was evidenced by the slim majority that some nurses across the province were not happy with their new contract. Despite the low voter participation, both the acute care agreement and long term care agreement received a 55% ratification vote.

Only 30 per cent of Nurses' Union members cast ballots over a three day period. NSNU president, Janet Hazelton says that low voter turnout and the low ratification count for these agreements sends a message that the members are not happy with this deal, specifically the economic increase.

"I would have liked to see more voter engagement but this is a democratic process and the majority of members who voted, have accepted it. That said, many of our nurses have told us directly that they were not pleased with various aspects of these agreement.

"Our Provincial Negotiating Committee was in a very difficult place. The team had little choice but to recommend the 1% per cent increase in each year of the two year contracts because, for the first time ever, we were able to eliminate the mandatory overtime for our acute care nurses. This is a significant improvement. And, for our long term care nurses we were able to better align their agreements with the acute care contract. Again, this was a very important goal of the negotiating committee. We will live with this agreement for another six months at which time we will speak to our members, re-focus and go back to the table after these agreements expire in the fall."

These contracts are retroactive to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, and will expire on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The agreements affect nurses working at the IWK, Dartmouth General, hospitals in all of the District Health Authorities and 26 long term care facilities represented by the Health Association of Nova Scotia.

The NSNU is currently preparing for upcoming negotiations with the VON, other long term facilities, and Canadian Blood Services.

**-30-**

The NSNU represents over 6400 Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Licensed Practical Nurses working in hospitals, long term care facilities, and community care (VON and Canadian Blood Services).

NSNU acute care locals include the IWK and hospitals located in the Capital District Health Authority (including the Dartmouth General and Cobequid Community Health Centre) and all other DHAs in the province. The NSNU represents nurses in the vast majority of long term care facilities throughout the province. The NSNU is a member organization of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions which represents over 172,000 nurses and student nurses across Canada.

**For more information please contact:**

Janet Hazelton, NSNU President  
456-2084 (mobile)  
468-0737 (office)  
[Janet.hazelton@nsnu.ns.ca](mailto:Janet.hazelton@nsnu.ns.ca)

Coleen Logan, NSNU Communications Officer  
468-0283 (office)  
430-6169 (mobile)