



Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, CLC
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April 9, 2014

Mr. Stephen McNeil
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Mr. Leo Glavine
Minister of Health and Wellness
Department of Health and Wellness
17th Floor, Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2R8

Dear Premier and Minister Glavine:

Request to meet re: Merger of District Health Authorities

We are writing as a follow-up to our letter of February 14, 2014 in which we, at length, outlined our desire to meet to discuss your Government's proposal to merge District Health Authorities as we understand that your government will bring forward legislation in the fall which would create a Provincial Health Authority.

We received your response of February 21 in which you said that there is a commitment to meet with the leaders of the Health Care Unions as part of Minister Glavine's tour of all the Districts, including the IWK.

However the Minister has been quoted in several of the media and related comments that he intended to meet with the leadership within the next six months. Clearly, given the importance and profile of this matter; these comments or overtures do not reflect a sincere desire or intent to have open and constructive discussions with those who represent the thousands of workers in the Health Care system.

We believe this meeting needs to be arranged sooner rather than later if we are to have or hope to instill confidence in the process.

As the heads of all the public sector health care unions in Nova Scotia, NSGEU, CUPE, NSNU and Unifor, we represent more than 20,000 health care members. Our members - nurses, health care workers, clerical and support staff – want to focus their efforts on delivering front line health care. They do not want to enter into a protracted battle over benefits and the provisions of collective agreements that they have negotiated over several decades.

As reflected in our approach, we take this matter very seriously and we have had two meetings of the health care leadership and urgency of this meeting request was at the top of our agenda. We have enclosed our previous letter and your response for your ready reference. Please contact my office as soon as possible. I am the signatory to this leader of behalf of the healthcare union leadership.

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As noted in our previous correspondence we believe there can be smooth transition if we work together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Clarke, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

Joan Jessome, President, Nova Scotia Government and General Employees' Union,

Lana Payne, Atlantic Director, Unifor

Jacquie Bramwell, Atlantic Director, Canadian Union of Public Employees

Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union

Copy: All members of the NS Legislature

RC/jw/Unifor 4005