

# **COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT**

between the

**CAPITAL DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY**

and the

**NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES UNION**

## **NURSING BARGAINING UNIT**

**Term: November 1, 2012 – October 31, 2014**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**NOTE** For ease of reference an asterisk (\*) has been placed beside each article which has been amended or added to this collective agreement in the most recent round of collective bargaining. This does not apply where only the numbering of articles has been altered (for example, when a new article has been added) and such numbering changes have not been identified by an asterisk.

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<b>PREAMBLE</b> .....	1
<b>ARTICLE 1 - INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS</b> .....	1
1.01    Definitions .....	1
1.02    Service .....	3
1.03    Seniority .....	3
1.04    Casual Seniority.....	4
1.05    Gender .....	5
1.06    Headings.....	5
<b>ARTICLE 2 – RECOGNITION</b> .....	5
2.01    Bargaining Agent Recognition .....	5
2.02    No Discrimination for Union Activity .....	6
2.03    No Discrimination .....	6
2.04    Sexual and Personal Harassment .....	6
2.05    Same Sex Family Status .....	6
2.06    Diversity.....	7
2.07    Headings.....	7
<b>ARTICLE 3 - APPLICATION</b> .....	7
<b>ARTICLE 4 - FUTURE LEGISLATION</b> .....	7
<b>ARTICLE 5 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS</b> .....	7
5.01    Management Rights.....	7
5.02    Consistent Application.....	7
<b>ARTICLE 6 - RIGHTS AND PROHIBITIONS</b> .....	8
6.01    No Lockout or Strike .....	8
6.02    No Sanction of Strike .....	8
6.03    Emergency Services.....	8
6.04    Headings.....	8
<b>ARTICLE 7 - UNION INFORMATION AND OFFICE</b> .....	8
7.01    Bulletin Boards .....	8
7.02    Distribution of Union Literature.....	8
7.03    Union Office .....	9
<b>ARTICLE 8 – INFORMATION</b> .....	9

8.01	Copies of Agreement.....	9
8.02	Letter of Appointment .....	9
8.03	Employer to Acquaint New Employees .....	9
8.04	Position Descriptions.....	9
8.05	Bargaining Unit Information .....	10
<b>ARTICLE 9 – APPOINTMENT .....</b>		<b>10</b>
9.01	Appointment Status.....	10
9.02	Probationary Period .....	10
9.03	Confirmation of Permanent Appointment.....	10
9.04	Termination of Probationary Appointment.....	10
9.05	Pay in Lieu of Termination Notice .....	11
9.06	Notification to the Union .....	11
9.07	Headings.....	11
9.08	Secondment .....	11
<b>ARTICLE 10 - JOB POSTING* .....</b>		<b>11</b>
10.01	Job Posting .....	11
10.02	Filling Vacancies or Assignments* .....	12
10.03	Retention of Status .....	13
10.04	Grievance/Arbitration .....	13
10.05	Placement in New Position .....	13
10.06	Temporarily Working in a Position Outside the Bargaining Unit .....	13
<b>ARTICLE 11 – CHECKOFF .....</b>		<b>14</b>
11.01	Deduction of Union Dues and Assessments.....	14
11.02	Notification of Deduction .....	14
11.03	Religious Exclusions.....	14
11.04	Remittance of Union Dues and Assessments.....	14
11.05	Liability .....	14
11.06	Professional Dues .....	14
<b>ARTICLE 12 - STEWARDS .....</b>		<b>15</b>
12.01	Recognition .....	15
12.02	Notification.....	15
12.03	Servicing of Grievances.....	15
<b>ARTICLE 13 - TIME OFF FOR UNION BUSINESS.....</b>		<b>15</b>
13.01	Leave Without Pay.....	15
13.02	Notification to Employer .....	16
13.03	Salary Continuance .....	16
13.04	Annual Meeting/Collective Bargaining Workshop .....	16
13.05	Number of Employees Eligible .....	17
13.06	Contract Negotiations .....	17
13.07	Arbitration and Joint Consultation.....	17
13.08	Grievance Meetings.....	17

13.09	No Loss of Service/ Seniority .....	17
13.10	Leave of Absence for the Full-time President .....	18
<b>ARTICLE 14 - HOURS OF WORK*</b> .....		<b>19</b>
14.01	(a) Hours of Work* .....	19
	(b) Overtime Exception .....	19
	(c) Rest Intervals between Scheduled Shifts .....	19
	(d) Nurse Educators/Nursing Instructors (Post RN faculty) and Clinical Nurse Educators .....	19
14.02	No Guarantee of Hours .....	20
14.03	Deviations from Scheduled Hours .....	20
14.04	Flexible Working Hours .....	20
14.05	Modified Work Week .....	20
14.06	Return to Regular Times of Work .....	20
14.07	Shift Duration .....	21
14.08	Meal Breaks and Rest Periods .....	22
14.09	Recall From Meal Breaks and Rest Periods .....	22
14.10	Nursing Coverage .....	22
14.11	Days Off .....	22
14.12	Consecutive Shifts .....	22
14.13	Posting of Shift Schedules .....	23
14.14	Exchange of Shifts .....	23
14.15	Week-ends Off* .....	23
14.16	Split Shifts .....	23
14.17	Rotation of Shifts .....	23
14.18	Weekend Nurse .....	24
14.19	Conversion of Hours .....	25
14.20	Headings .....	26
14.21	Scheduling Models* .....	26
14.22	Replacement of Unplanned Absences* .....	26
<b>ARTICLE 15 – OVERTIME</b> .....		<b>27</b>
15.01	Definitions .....	27
15.02	Allocation and Notice of Overtime .....	27
15.03	Union Consultation .....	27
15.04	Overtime Compensation .....	27
15.05	Overtime Eligibility .....	28
15.06	Overtime Meal Allowance .....	28
15.07	Computation of Overtime .....	28
15.08	Form of Compensation .....	28
15.09	Time Off in Lieu of Overtime .....	28
15.10	Carry Over of Overtime .....	29
15.11	No Layoff to Compensate for Overtime .....	29
15.12	Daylight Saving Time .....	29
15.13	Call-In .....	29

15.14	Compensation for Performing Other Duties.....	29
<b>ARTICLE 16 - STANDBY AND CALLBACK*</b> .....		<b>30</b>
16.01	Standby Compensation* .....	30
16.02	Employee Availability .....	30
16.03	Failure to Report.....	30
16.04	Callback Compensation .....	30
16.05	Transportation Allowance and Parking for Callback* .....	31
16.06	Rest Interval After Callback*.....	31
16.07	Compensation Where Rest Interval Not Taken* .....	31
<b>ARTICLE 17 – VACATIONS*</b> .....		<b>31</b>
17.01	Annual Vacation Entitlement .....	31
17.02	Vacation Year .....	32
17.03	Authorization.....	32
17.04	Vacation Scheduling .....	32
17.05	Employee Request.....	33
17.06	Restriction on Numbers of Employees on Vacation.....	33
17.07	Unbroken Vacation .....	33
17.08	Vacation Carry Over.....	34
17.09	Accumulative Vacation Carry Over .....	34
17.10	Use of Accumulated Vacation Carry Over .....	34
17.11	Borrowing of Unearned Vacation Credits .....	34
17.12	Employee Compensation Upon Separation.....	34
17.13	Employer Compensation Upon Separation .....	35
17.14	Vacation Credits Upon Death.....	35
17.15	Vacation Records.....	35
17.16	Recall from Vacation.....	35
17.17	Reimbursement of Expenses upon Recall.....	35
17.18	Reinstatement of Vacation Upon Recall .....	35
17.19	Illness During Vacation .....	36
17.20	Days of Rest During Vacation* .....	36
<b>ARTICLE 18 – HOLIDAYS</b> .....		<b>36</b>
18.01	Paid Holidays .....	36
18.02	Exception.....	37
18.03	Holiday Falling on a Day of Rest .....	37
18.04	Holiday Coinciding with Paid Leave .....	37
18.05	Compensation for Work on a Holiday.....	37
18.06	Overtime on a Holiday .....	38
18.07	Religious Day in Lieu .....	38
18.08	Time Off in Lieu of Holiday.....	39
18.09	Christmas or New Year’s Day Off.....	39
18.10	Illness on a Paid Holiday.....	39
18.11	Time Off in Lieu for Part-time and Job Share Employees .....	39

<b>ARTICLE 19 – LEAVES*</b> .....	<b>40</b>
19.01 Special Leave .....	40
19.02 Bereavement Leave* .....	40
19.03 Court Leave .....	41
19.04 Jury Compensation .....	42
19.05 Selection/Promotion Process Leave .....	42
19.06 Pregnancy Leave .....	42
19.07 Parental Leave .....	45
19.08 Adoption Leave .....	47
19.09 Leave for Birth of Child .....	49
19.10 Leave for Adoption of Child .....	49
19.11 General Leave .....	49
19.12 In-Service Conferences .....	51
19.13 Leave for Storms or Hazardous Conditions .....	51
19.14 Prepaid Leave .....	52
19.15 Leave of Absence for Political Office .....	52
19.16 Military Leave .....	53
19.17 Education Leave .....	53
19.18 Nurse Educators/ Nursing Instructors (Post RN Faculty)/Clinical Nurse Educators’ Sabbatical Leave .....	55
19.19 Compassionate Care Leave .....	55
<b>ARTICLE 20 - GROUP INSURANCE</b> .....	<b>55</b>
20.01 Group Life and Medical Plans .....	55
20.02 Long Term Disability Plans .....	56
<b>ARTICLE 21 - ILLNESS/INJURY BENEFIT</b> .....	<b>56</b>
21.01 Short-Term Illness Leave Benefit .....	56
21.02 Joint Rehabilitation Advisory Committee .....	56
21.03 Recurring Disabilities .....	56
21.04 Benefits Not Paid During Certain Periods .....	57
21.05 Benefits/Layoff .....	57
21.06 Long-Term Disability .....	58
21.07 Deemed Salary .....	58
21.08 Proof of Illness .....	58
21.09 Sick Leave Application .....	58
21.10 Unearned Credits Upon Death .....	59
21.11 Sick Leave Records .....	59
21.12 Employer Approval .....	59
21.13 Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Dependency .....	59
21.14 Confidentiality of Health Information .....	59
21.15 Report of Injuries .....	60
21.16 Employee Entitlement .....	60
21.17 Recurring Disability .....	61
21.18 Alternate Medical Practitioner .....	61

21.19	Ongoing Therapy .....	62
<b>ARTICLE 22 - EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW &amp; .....</b>		<b>62</b>
22.01	Employee Performance Review.....	62
22.02	Record of Disciplinary Action.....	62
22.03	Notice of Performance Improvement Requirements .....	63
22.04	Employee Access to Personnel File .....	63
<b>ARTICLE 23 - DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE.....</b>		<b>63</b>
23.01	Just Cause.....	63
23.02	Notification .....	63
23.03	Grievances .....	63
23.04	Union Representation .....	64
<b>ARTICLE 24 - NOTICE OF RESIGNATION.....</b>		<b>64</b>
24.01	Notice of Resignation.....	64
24.02	Absence Without Permission .....	64
24.03	Failure to Give Notice.....	64
24.04	Acknowledgment of Letters of Resignation .....	64
24.05	Withdrawal of Resignation.....	65
<b>ARTICLE 25 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.....</b>		<b>65</b>
25.01	Grievances .....	65
25.02	Union Approval .....	65
25.03	(a) Grievance Procedure.....	65
	(b) Grievance Mediation.....	66
	(c) Job Posting Grievances .....	66
25.04	Union Referral to Arbitration .....	67
25.05	Union Representation .....	67
25.06	Time Limits.....	67
25.07	Amending of Time Limits .....	67
25.08	Policy Grievance.....	67
25.09	Sexual Harassment and Personal Harassment.....	67
<b>ARTICLE 26 - ARBITRATION .....</b>		<b>68</b>
26.01	Notification .....	68
26.02	Referral to Arbitration .....	68
26.03	Relief Against Time Limits .....	68
26.04	Regular Arbitration Procedure .....	68
26.05	Expedited Arbitration Procedure.....	69
26.06	Arbitration Award .....	69
26.07	Arbitration Expenses.....	69
<b>ARTICLE 27 - JOINT CONSULTATION.....</b>		<b>69</b>
27.01	Joint Consultation .....	69
27.02	Union/Management Quality Care Committee .....	70

(a)	Quality Nursing Care .....	70
(b)	Quality Nursing Care Concerns .....	70
(c)	Chairperson.....	70
(d)	Complaint Process .....	70
(e)	Time Spent by Committee Members .....	71
(f)	Collective Agreement Issues.....	71
27.03	Benefits Committee .....	71
<b>ARTICLE 28 – TRAVEL.....</b>		<b>72</b>
28.01	Employer’s Travel Policy .....	72
28.02	Kilometrage Allowance .....	72
28.03	Other Expenses .....	72
28.04	Transportation To/From Work .....	73
<b>ARTICLE 29 - RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE .....</b>		<b>73</b>
29.01	Retirement Allowance .....	73
29.02	Retiree Benefits.....	74
<b>ARTICLE 30 - THE PENSIONS .....</b>		<b>74</b>
30.01	Coverage of Employees .....	74
<b>ARTICLE 31 - HEALTH AND SAFETY.....</b>		<b>75</b>
31.01	Health and Safety Provisions .....	75
31.02	Occupational Health and Safety Act .....	75
31.03	Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee .....	75
31.04	Right to Refuse Work and Consequences of Refusal .....	77
31.05	Restriction on Assignment of Work Where Refusal .....	79
31.06	First-Aid Kits .....	79
31.07	Protection of Pregnant Employees .....	79
31.08	Uniforms and Protective Clothing.....	80
<b>ARTICLE 32 - JOB SECURITY* .....</b>		<b>80</b>
32.01	Joint Committee on Technological Change .....	80
32.02	Definition .....	80
32.03	Introduction.....	81
32.04	Notice to Union .....	81
32.05	Training and Retraining.....	81
32.06	Application .....	81
32.07	Union Consultation.....	81
32.08	Transition Support Program .....	82
32.09	Employee Placement Rights.....	82
32.10	Volunteers .....	83
32.11	Insufficient Volunteers .....	83
32.12	Layoff Notice .....	83
32.13	Layoff.....	83
32.14	Layoff Procedure .....	84



32.15	Notice of Layoff.....	84
32.16	Pay in Lieu of Notice .....	85
32.17	Displacement Procedure.....	85
32.18	Recall Procedures .....	86
32.19	Termination of Recall Rights .....	86
32.20	Loss of Seniority.....	86
32.21	No New Employees.....	87
32.22	Transition Support Program.....	87
32.23	Layoff Exception* .....	87
32.24	Contracting Out .....	87
<b>ARTICLE 33 – TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM .....</b>		<b>91</b>
33.01	.....	91
1.1	Voluntary Resignation and Seniority .....	91
1.2	Joint Committee on Technological Change .....	91
1.3	TSP.....	92
1.4	Displacement Process .....	92
1.5	Salary Protection .....	93
1.6	Reduced Hours and TSP Payment .....	94
1.7	Release Form .....	94
1.8	Casual Shifts .....	94
1.9	TSP Severance Payment.....	94
1.10	Formula for Part-time Hours.....	94
1.11	Continuation of Benefits .....	95
1.12	Re-employment Considerations.....	95
1.13	Number of Employees.....	95
1.14	Severance Payment Method .....	95
1.15	Transition Services / EAP .....	95
1.16	Transition Allowance.....	96
<b>ARTICLE 34 - PAY PROVISIONS*.....</b>		<b>96</b>
34.01	Rates of Pay* .....	96
34.02	Rate of Pay Upon Appointment .....	96
34.03	Exception.....	96
34.04	Rate of Pay Upon Promotion .....	97
34.05	Exception.....	97
34.06	Rate of Pay Upon Demotion.....	97
34.07	Anniversary Date .....	97
34.08	Rate of Pay Upon Reclassification.....	97
34.09	Salary Increments.....	98
34.11	Granting of Withheld Increment .....	98
34.12	Long Service Increment .....	98
34.13	Late Career Nurse Retention Bonus* .....	98
34.14	Acting Pay .....	99
34.15	Shift Premium* .....	99

34.16	Week-end Premium* .....	99
34.17	Unit Premium .....	99
34.18	Transfers between Units .....	100
34.19	Designated Units* .....	100
34.20	Discontinuance of Premium .....	100
34.21	Educational Premiums - Post-Graduate Training - 3 Months .....	101
34.22	Post-Graduate Training - 6 Months .....	101
34.23	Baccalaureate Degree .....	101
34.24	Masters Degree .....	101
34.25	No Pyramiding of Benefits .....	101
34.26	Discontinuation of Premium .....	101
34.27	Employer Conducted Post-Graduate Training .....	102
34.28	CNA Certification .....	102
34.29	In-Charge Pay .....	102
34.30	Charge Nurse* .....	102
<b>ARTICLE 35 - REASSIGNMENT .....</b>		<b>103</b>
35.01	Circumstances .....	103
35.02	Reassignment .....	103
35.03	Emergencies .....	104
35.04	Job Postings .....	104
35.05	Grievances .....	104
35.06	Notification to the Union .....	104
<b>ARTICLE 36 - EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY .....</b>		<b>104</b>
36.01	Employer's Liability .....	104
<b>ARTICLE 37 - CASUAL EMPLOYEES.....</b>		<b>105</b>
37.01	Application of the Collective Agreement .....	105
37.02	Exceptions.....	105
37.03	Appointment.....	105
37.04	Probationary Period .....	105
37.05	Termination of Probationary Appointment.....	106
37.06	Assignment of Casual Employees .....	106
37.07	Pay in Lieu of Benefits .....	106
37.08	Overtime .....	106
37.09	Holiday Pay .....	107
37.10	Overtime on a Holiday .....	107
37.11	Leaves .....	107
37.12	Rate of Pay upon Appointment .....	107
37.13	Exception to Rate of Pay.....	107
37.14	Pay Increments .....	108
37.15	No Avoidance.....	108
37.16	Termination of Employment Relationship.....	108
37.17	Headings.....	108

<b>ARTICLE 38 - LONG ASSIGNMENTS, SHORT ASSIGNMENTS,</b>	<b>108</b>
38.01 Casual Availability List	108
38.02 Employee(s) on Recall List	108
38.03 Unit Specific Casual Lists	109
38.04 Long Assignments	110
38.05 Short Assignments	111
38.06 Part-time Employees Accepting Assignments of Full-time Hours	113
38.07 Relief Assignments	113
38.08 Cancellation of Relief Assignment	113
38.09 Reporting Pay	113
38.10 Termination of Assignments	113
38.11 Pay in Lieu of Notice	114
38.12 Completion of Assignments	114
38.13 Casuals Placed in Assignments	114
38.14 Overtime Restrictions	114
38.15 Headings	114
<b>ARTICLE 39 - PART-TIME EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>115</b>
39.01 Application of Collective Agreement	115
39.02 Entitlement to Benefits	115
39.03 Hours Worked	115
39.04 Earning Entitlements	115
39.05 Unpaid Leave	115
39.06 Bereavement Leave	115
39.07 Service	116
39.08 Overtime	116
39.09 Group Insurance	116
39.10 Pension	117
39.11 Headings	117
<b>ARTICLE 40 - JOB SHARING</b>	<b>117</b>
40.01 Terms and Conditions of Job Sharing	117
40.02 Part of Collective Agreement	117
40.03 Rights and Benefits	117
40.04 Existing Employees Only	117
40.05 Operational Requirements	118
40.06 Qualifications	118
40.07 Identification of Job Share	118
40.08 Period of Job Share	118
40.09 Work Schedule Requirements	118
40.10 Service	118
40.11 Hours of Work	119
40.12 Pro-Rating of Benefits	119
40.13 Pension	119
40.14 Termination of Job Share	120

40.15	Notice.....	120
40.16	Extension of Job Share.....	120
40.17	Incumbents.....	120
40.18	Costs.....	120
<b>ARTICLE 41 – AMENDMENT .....</b>		<b>121</b>
<b>ARTICLE 42 - CLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFICATION .....</b>		<b>121</b>
42.01	Classification and Salary Adjustments.....	121
42.02	Classification Appeal Procedure.....	121
42.03	Classification Appeal Tribunal .....	122
<b>ARTICLE 43 - SUCCESSOR RIGHTS.....</b>		<b>124</b>
<b>ARTICLE 44 - PREPAID LEAVE PLAN .....</b>		<b>124</b>
44.01	Purpose .....	124
44.02	Terms of Reference .....	124
44.03	Eligibility.....	124
44.04	Application .....	124
44.05	Leave .....	125
44.06	Payment Formula and Leave of Absence.....	125
44.07	Benefits .....	126
44.08	Withdrawal.....	126
44.09	Written Contract.....	127
<b>ARTICLE 45 - TERM OF AGREEMENT* .....</b>		<b>127</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1 EXPEDITED ARBITRATION - RULES OF PROCEDURE* .....</b>		<b>129</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2 HEALTH AND DENTAL PLANS.....</b>		<b>131</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3 ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF CLASSIFICATIONS</b>		
<b>&amp; CORRESPONDING PAY PLAN .....</b>		<b>132</b>
<b>RATES OF PAY - NOVEMBER 1, 2012 .....</b>		<b>133</b>
<b>RATES OF PAY - NOVEMBER 1, 2013 .....</b>		<b>136</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #1 Sick Leave Banks* .....</b>		<b>140</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #2 Banked Vacation.....</b>		<b>142</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #3 Transition .....</b>		<b>144</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #4 Permanent Relief Nurse .....</b>		<b>146</b>

<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #5</b>	
Occupational Health and Safety Audit Process and Training .....	149
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #6</b>	
Recognition of Previous Experience .....	151
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #7 Specialty Nurse Practitioner .....</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #8</b>	
New Arbitration Process for S.T.I. Benefit Grievance .....	153
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #9</b>	
Devolution of Continuing Care from the Department of Health to the District Health Authorities .....	154
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #10</b>	
Attendance Support – Expedited Procedure .....	160
<b>MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #11</b>	
Mental Health Commission Steering Committee* .....	163
<b>ALPHABETICAL INDEX.....</b>	<b>164</b>

**NOTE** For ease of reference an asterisk (\*) has been placed beside each article which has been amended or added to this collective agreement in the most recent round of collective bargaining. This does not apply where only the numbering of articles has been altered (for example, when a new article has been added) and such numbering changes have not been identified by an asterisk.

## PREAMBLE

Whereas it is the intention and purpose of the parties to this Agreement to maintain harmonious relations and settled conditions of employment between the Employer, the employees and the Union, to improve the quality of health care service, to promote the well being and increased productivity of employees to the end that patients be well and efficiently served and to promote an environment where employees want to work and are valued, accordingly the parties hereto set forth certain terms and conditions of employment affecting employees covered by this Agreement.

Now therefore, the parties agree as follows:

### ARTICLE 1 - INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

#### 1.01 Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (1) **“Common-law relationship”** is said to exist when, for a continuous period of more than one (1) year, an employee has lived with a person, publicly represented that person to be her spouse, and lives continually with that person as if that person were her spouse.
- (2) **“Day”**, except where otherwise provided, means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
- (3) **“Employee”** means a person who is included in the bargaining unit as defined in Article 2.01 and includes:
  - (a) **“Casual Employee”** is a non-permanent employee;
  - (b) **“Full-time Employee”** is an employee who is hired to work the bi-weekly hours of work as provided in this Agreement;
  - (c) **“Part-time Employee”** is an employee who is hired to work less than the full-time hours of work as provided in this Agreement; and
  - (d) **“Permanent Employee”** is an employee who has completed her probationary period and is employed on a full-time or part-time basis without reference to any specified date of termination of employment.
- (4) **“Employer”** means the Capital District Health Authority (“CDHA”).

- (5) **“Holiday”** means:
- (a) in the case of a shift that does not commence and end in the same day, the twenty-four (24) hour period commencing from the time at which the shift commenced if more than one-half of the shift falls on a day designated as a holiday in this Agreement;
  - (b) in any other case, the twenty-four (24) hour period commencing at 0001 hours of a day designated as a holiday in this Agreement.
- (6) **“Leave of absence”** means absent from work with permission.
- (7) **“Lockout”** includes the closing of a place of employment, a suspension of work or a refusal by the Employer to continue to employ a number of its employees done to compel the employees, or to aid another employer to compel its employees, to agree to terms or conditions of employment.
- (8) **“Predecessor Employer”** means the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, the Nova Scotia Hospital, and the Central Regional Health Board.
- (9) **“Shift duration”** means the length of a shift.
- (10) **“Spouse”** means husband, wife and common-law spouse. Common-law spouse includes a same sex partner in a common-law relationship except for purposes of a pension plan where the pension plan contemplates otherwise.
- (11) **“Strike”** includes a cessation of work, or refusal to work or continue to work by employees in combination or in concert or in accordance with a common understanding, for the purpose of compelling their Employer to agree to terms or conditions of employment or to aid other employees in compelling their employer to agree to terms or conditions of employment.
- (12) **“Union”** means the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.
- (13) **“Week-end”** means the fifty-five (55) consecutive hour period commencing at 0001 hours Saturday to 0700 hours Monday.
- (14) **“Working Day”** means any calendar day on which an employee is scheduled to work.

## 1.02 Service

For the purposes of this Agreement, “service” means:

- (a) (i) the service with which an employee was credited with as an employee of a Predecessor Employer immediately prior to Memorandum of Agreement between the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees’ Union and the QEII Health Sciences Centre, the Nova Scotia Hospital and the Capital District Health Authority (former Central Regional Health Board) dated February 19, 2001; and
- (ii) total accumulated months of employment with the Employer.
- (b) Notwithstanding Article 1.02(a)(ii), except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, no service and therefore no service related benefits shall be credited to an employee who does not receive salary for in excess of ten (10) days during that calendar month.

## 1.03 Seniority

- (a) “Seniority” shall be defined in accordance with the following:

- (i) **Establishing Seniority as of February 19, 2001:**

Seniority means the seniority with which an employee was credited as an employee of a Predecessor Employer immediately prior to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees’ Union and the QEII Health Sciences Centre, the Nova Scotia Hospital and the Capital District Health Authority (former Central Regional Health Board) dated February 19, 2001.

- (ii) **Break in Continuous Employment - “former casuals” of the Nova Scotia Hospital, Capital District Health Authority (former Central Regional Health Board) and Public Health and Drug Dependency, 1988 Nova Scotia Hospital Part-timers and 1988 Public Health and Drug Dependency Part-timers:**

The continuous employment of formerly “casual employees” of the Nova Scotia Hospital, Capital District Health Authority (former Central Regional Health Board) and Public Health and Drug Dependency, 1988 Nova Scotia Hospital part-timers, and 1988 Public Health and Drug Dependency part-timers is considered to have been broken in a year in which they did not work for at least



40% of full-time hours. For such employees, their date of hire, for the purpose of establishing seniority as of February 19, 2001, shall be their actual date of hire where there is no break in continuous employment or January 1st of the year following the most recent break in continuous employment.

(iii) **Accumulation of Seniority after February 19, 2001:**

All employees, except casual employees, in a bargaining unit accumulate seniority after February 19, 2001, for continuous employment in a bargaining unit at the Capital District Health Authority represented by the Union.

(b) **Posting of Seniority Lists**

- (i) Within sixty (60) days following the signing of this Agreement, and annually thereafter on December 15, the Employer shall post a list setting out each employee's seniority date. Each employee shall have thirty (30) days from the date the list is posted to challenge her seniority date in writing. The Employer shall reply to the employee's written objection within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written objection. If no written objection is received by the Employer within thirty (30) days from the date the list is posted, the seniority date on the list shall be the employee's seniority date for all purposes following the posting of the list.
- (ii) An employee who is absent from work for any part of the thirty (30) day posting period shall have thirty (30) days from the date of her return to work to object in writing to her seniority date. However, until and unless such written objection is received by the Employer, and in any event no later than thirty (30) days from the employee's return to work, the posted seniority date for the employee will be considered to be the employee's seniority date for all purposes.

**1.04 Casual Seniority**

- (a) There shall be a separate casual employee seniority list.
- (b) Casual employees shall accumulate seniority on the basis of hours worked, including any hours worked during a Long or Short Assignment, on or after July 22, 1997.
- (c) A casual employee who is appointed to a permanent position through Job Posting shall have her seniority for all purposes as of the date of her appointment to the permanent position. If the employee was in a Long or

Short Assignment, or an uninterrupted series of Long or Short Assignments immediately prior to being appointed to the said permanent position without interruption, the employee's seniority will date back to her appointment to the said Assignment. For the purpose of this provision, an interruption shall be any bi-weekly pay period where a casual employee did not receive compensation for work with respect to a Long or Short Assignment.

- (d) Within sixty (60) days following the signing of this Agreement, and semi-annually thereafter, in the first pay period ending in January and July in each year, the Employer shall post a list setting out each casual employee's accumulated hours as of the preceding pay period. This list is for the purpose of casual employees' seniority. Each casual employee shall have fifteen (15) days from the date the list is posted to challenge her casual seniority date in writing. The Employer shall reply to the casual employee's written objection within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the written objection. If no written objection is received by the Employer within fifteen (15) days from the date the list is posted, the casual seniority date on the list shall be the casual employee's seniority date for all purposes following the posting of the list.

#### **1.05 Gender**

Unless any provision of this Agreement otherwise specifies, words importing the feminine gender shall include males and vice versa.

#### **1.06 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

### **ARTICLE 2 – RECOGNITION**

#### **2.01 Bargaining Agent Recognition**

The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive Bargaining Agent of the employees in the bargaining unit, as follows:

all full-time, regular part-time and casual Registered and Graduate Nurses employed by the Capital District Health Authority, including nurses engaged in providing Addiction/Drug Dependency and Public Health Programs, but excluding Nurse Managers and Nurses above that rank, those persons described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of

Section 2 of the *Trade Union Act*, and those persons in positions listed in Appendix A to the Certification Order of the Labour Relations Board, being LRB No. 4580 and employees included in other bargaining units.

For the sake of clarity, it is noted that the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union represents a bargaining unit of full-time, regular part-time and casual Registered and Graduate Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses employed by the Capital District Health Authority at the Cobequid Multi-Service Centre, Dartmouth General Hospital, Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital, Hants Community Hospital, Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital and Twin Oaks Memorial Hospital sites excluding those persons excluded by paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of Section 2 of the *Trade Union Act*, and Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses engaged in providing Addiction/Drug Dependency and Public Health Programs.

## **2.02 No Discrimination for Union Activity**

The parties agree that there will be no discrimination, interference, restriction, or coercion exercised or practised with respect to any employee for reason of membership or legal activity in the Union.

## **2.03 No Discrimination**

The Union and the employees support a workplace free of discrimination. Neither the Employer, nor any person acting on behalf of the Employer, shall refuse to continue to employ any employee or otherwise discriminate against any employee, on the basis of race, religion, creed, colour, ethnic or national or aboriginal origin, sex, sexual orientation, source of income; political belief, affiliation or activity; family status, marital status, age, or physical disability or mental disability, except as authorized by the *Human Rights Act*.

## **2.04 Sexual and Personal Harassment**

The Employer shall provide and the Union and employees shall support a workplace free from personal or sexual harassment and any other harassment based on the protected characteristics set out in Article 2.03. The Employer shall maintain a policy on workplace harassment.

## **2.05 Same Sex Family Status**

Any applicable family oriented benefits, e.g., bereavement leave, medical/dental, etc. shall be available to families with same sex spouses except for pension plans where the pension plan contemplates otherwise.

## **2.06 Diversity**

The Employer and the Union recognize the values of diversity in the workplace and will work cooperatively toward achieving a work environment that reflects the interests of a diverse work force.

## **2.07 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

### **ARTICLE 3 - APPLICATION**

- 3.01** This Agreement, including each of the Memoranda of Agreement and the Appendices which are attached, apply to and are binding on the Union, the employees and the Employer.

### **ARTICLE 4 - FUTURE LEGISLATION**

- 4.01** In the event that any law passed by the Legislature applying to the employees covered by this Agreement renders null and void any provision of this Agreement, the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall remain in effect for the term of the Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 5 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

#### **5.01 Management Rights**

The management and direction of employees and operations is vested exclusively in the Employer. All the functions, rights, power and authority which the Employer has not specifically abridged, deleted or modified by this Agreement are recognized by the Union as being retained by the Employer.

#### **5.02 Consistent Application**

The Employer agrees that management rights will not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with the express provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 6 - RIGHTS AND PROHIBITIONS**

### **6.01 No Lockout or Strike**

The Employer shall not cause a lockout and an employee shall not strike during the term of this Agreement.

### **6.02 No Sanction of Strike**

The Union shall not sanction, encourage, or support financially or otherwise, a strike by its members or any of them who are governed by the provisions of this Agreement during the term of this Agreement.

### **6.03 Emergency Services**

(a) Notwithstanding an employee's right to strike, the Union agrees that during a legal strike, a sufficient number of bargaining unit employees will be provided to assist the Employer where there are insufficient numbers of excluded persons to provide emergency treatment or care of any patient, if, in the opinion of the majority of the Emergency Services Evaluation Committee, a patient's life would be endangered.

(b) The Emergency Services Evaluation Committee shall consist of equal representation from the Employer and the Union.

### **6.04 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only. They shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

## **ARTICLE 7 - UNION INFORMATION AND OFFICE**

### **7.01 Bulletin Boards**

The Employer shall provide adequate and visible bulletin board space for the posting of notices by the Union pertaining to elections, appointments, meeting dates, news items, social and recreational affairs.

### **7.02 Distribution of Union Literature**

(a) The Employer will provide space to the Union during employee orientation to allow the Union to distribute Union literature related to the orientation of new Union members.

- (b) The Employer shall, where facilities permit, make available to the Union specific locations on its premises for the placement of bulk quantities of literature of the Union.

### **7.03 Union Office**

The Employer will provide the Union with an office within the CDHA. The Union is responsible for the provision of all items in this office, other than desk, chairs, filing cabinet and local distance telephone.

## **ARTICLE 8 – INFORMATION**

### **8.01 Copies of Agreement**

The Employer agrees to post a copy of the Agreement on the Employer's web site and intranet. Upon request by an employee, the Employer will provide a bound copy of the agreement to the employee within one calendar week. Upon request by the Union, the Employer agrees to provide a reasonable number of bound booklets for use by Union representatives and Stewards.

### **8.02 Letter of Appointment**

An employee, upon hiring or change of status, shall be provided with a statement of her classification and employment status, including designation as to her percentage of full-time hours, and pay scale applicable to her position. A copy of this statement shall be sent to the Union at the same time as it is sent to the employee.

### **8.03 Employer to Acquaint New Employees**

The Employer agrees to provide new employees with a copy of the Collective Agreement in effect and acquaint them with the conditions of employment set out in the articles concerning checkoff and stewards.

### **8.04 Position Descriptions**

- (a) Upon request by the employee, the Employer shall provide the position description outlining the duties and responsibilities assigned to her position.
- (b) The Employer will endeavour to ensure that position descriptions are reviewed and revised where necessary at periodic intervals but under no circumstances shall that interval be in excess of three (3) years.

- (c) Copies of all current position descriptions shall be forwarded to the Union upon signing of this Agreement. Thereafter, all revised position descriptions shall be provided to the Union within fifteen (15) days of revision.

#### **8.05 Bargaining Unit Information**

The Employer agrees to provide the Union such information relating to employees in the bargaining unit as may be required by the Union for the purpose of collective bargaining.

### **ARTICLE 9 – APPOINTMENT**

#### **9.01 Appointment Status**

An employee shall be appointed on a permanent basis, or on a casual basis in accordance with Article 37.

#### **9.02 Probationary Period**

- (a) Notwithstanding Article 9.01, a newly hired employee may be appointed to her position on a probationary basis for a period not to exceed 495 hours of time actually worked or twelve (12) months, whichever is greater.
- (b) A previous permanent employee whose employment was terminated for any reason and who is re-employed in the same classification within twelve (12) months from the date of such termination shall not be required to undergo a second (2nd) probationary period.

#### **9.03 Confirmation of Permanent Appointment**

- (a) The Employer may, after a permanent employee has served in a position on a probationary basis for a period of six (6) months, confirm the appointment on a permanent basis.
- (b) The Employer shall, after the permanent employee has served in a position on a probationary basis for the period indicated in Article 9.02 (a), confirm the appointment on a permanent basis.

#### **9.04 Termination of Probationary Appointment**

- (a) The Employer may terminate a probationary appointment at any time.

- (b) If the employment of an employee appointed to a position on a probationary basis is to be terminated for reasons other than wilful misconduct or disobedience or neglect of duty, the Employer shall advise the employee of the reasons in writing not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of termination.
- (c) The Employer shall notify the Union when a probationary employee is terminated.

#### **9.05 Pay in Lieu of Termination Notice**

Where less notice in writing is given than required in Article 9.04(b), an employee terminated in accordance with Article 9.04(b) shall continue to receive her pay for the number of days prior to the date of termination.

#### **9.06 Notification to the Union**

The Employer shall advise the Union of the appointment, termination, or change of status of each employee in the bargaining unit in accordance with Article 8.02.

#### **9.07 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

#### **9.08 Secondment**

Where an employee is being seconded from the Employer to a position involving the Health Sector of the Broader Public Sector, the terms and conditions of the secondment agreement will be established by agreement of the Employer and the Union.

### **ARTICLE 10 - JOB POSTING\***

#### **10.01 Job Posting**

- (a) When a new permanent position, a permanent vacancy, or a Long Assignment is created within the bargaining unit, the Employer shall post an electronic notice of such position. In work locations where electronic job postings are not possible or practical, a list of job postings will be placed in a visible location.



- (b)
  - (i) The posting of a permanent position or vacancy shall be for a minimum of ten (10) days.
  - (ii) The posting of a Long Assignment shall be for a minimum of five (5) days.
- (c) Should a Short Assignment not be able to be filled in accordance with Article 38.05, the posting of a Short Assignment shall be for a minimum of five (5) days.
- (d) The notice posted shall indicate:
  - (i) the classification and work area;
  - (ii) whether the posting is for a permanent position, or a Long or Short Assignment (if necessary);
  - (iii) the expected duration of the Assignment; and
  - (iv) whether the appointment is full-time or part-time, and any applicable part-time designation.
- (e) Only those postings which cannot be filled with a qualified employee from any bargaining unit will be available for filling from outside any of the bargaining units.

## **10.02 Filling Vacancies or Assignments\***

Where it is determined by the Employer that:

- (a) two or more bargaining unit applicants for a position in a bargaining unit are qualified; and
- (b) those applicants are of equal merit, preference in filling the vacancy or Assignment shall be given to the applicant with the greatest length of seniority.
- (c) In the event that a vacancy arises in the same position / classification title, within the same work area(s) and/or service within a three (3) month period of the losing date of the competition, the Employer is not required to post the vacancy. The position may be filled through a prior or existing competition within the three (3) month period.

Notwithstanding the above, the Employer may award the position to the senior qualified applicant without conducting interviews.

Once per month, the Employer will provide the Union with the names of the Employees who filled vacancies pursuant to this Article during the preceding month.

### **10.03 Retention of Status**

A permanent employee who successfully bids for a Long Assignment, or a Short Assignment (if posted), shall be entitled to retain her status as a permanent employee, and shall be entitled to return to her former position. If the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.

### **10.04 Grievance/Arbitration**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, for the purposes of this Article, an employee has the right to grieve any filling of a vacancy or Assignment in any bargaining unit.

### **10.05 Placement in New Position**

A successful internal applicant shall normally be placed in a new position within sixty (60) days of her appointment. If such placement does not occur within the sixty (60) day period due to operational requirements, the successful applicant will receive the higher rate of pay, where applicable, effective the sixty-first (61<sup>st</sup>) day.

### **10.06 Temporarily Working in a Position Outside the Bargaining Unit**

- (a) Where an employee successfully competes for a position outside the bargaining unit and takes an approved leave from his or her bargaining unit position to work in that position, the employee has a right to return to his or her bargaining unit position at the expiry of the approved leave.
- (b) While in the position outside the bargaining unit, the employee shall not pay Union dues nor shall the Union have a duty to represent the employee in any matter arising out of his or her position outside the bargaining unit. However, the Union reserves the right to represent the employee in relation to his/her right to return to his/her bargaining unit position.
- (c) Should the employee apply for another bargaining unit position while on an approved leave from his or her position, the employee shall be considered an internal applicant.

- (d) An employee who is appointed to a position outside the bargaining unit on an acting basis shall remain in the bargaining unit for the duration of the acting position.

## **ARTICLE 11 – CHECKOFF**

### **11.01 Deduction of Union Dues and Assessments**

The Employer will, as a condition of employment, deduct an amount equal to the amount of the membership dues and assessments uniformly required to be paid by all members of the Union from the bi-weekly pay of all employees in the bargaining unit.

### **11.02 Notification of Deduction**

The Union shall inform the Employer in writing of the authorized deduction to be checked off for employees mentioned in Article 11.01.

### **11.03 Religious Exclusions**

Deductions for membership dues and assessments shall not apply to any employee who, for religious reasons, cannot pay union dues and assessments, provided she makes a contribution equal to said union dues and assessments to some recognized charitable cause.

### **11.04 Remittance of Union Dues and Assessments**

The amounts deducted in accordance with Article 11.01 shall be remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union by cheque within a reasonable time after deductions are made and shall be accompanied by particulars identifying each employee and the deductions made on her behalf.

### **11.05 Liability**

The Union agrees to indemnify and save the Employer harmless against any claim or liability arising out of the application of this Article except for any claim or liability arising out of an error committed by the Employer.

### **11.06 Professional Dues**

Upon request of an employee, the Employer shall deduct the annual professional registration dues paid by Registered Nurses from the salary of the employee. It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that all registration information is currently submitted to her Association within the submission deadline.

## **ARTICLE 12 - STEWARDS**

### **12.01 Recognition**

The Employer acknowledges the right of the Union to appoint employees as Stewards.

### **12.02 Notification**

The Union agrees to provide the Employer with a list of employees designated as Chief Stewards and as Stewards for each bargaining unit.

### **12.03 Servicing of Grievances**

It is understood that the Officers, Stewards and members of the Union have their regular work to perform on behalf of the Employer. It is acknowledged that grievances should be serviced as soon as possible and that if it is necessary to service a grievance during working hours, Stewards will not leave their jobs without giving an explanation for leaving and obtaining the Supervisor's permission. Permission will not be unreasonably withheld so long as operational requirements permit. The Steward shall report back to the Supervisor before resuming the normal duties of her position.

## **ARTICLE 13 - TIME OFF FOR UNION BUSINESS**

### **13.01 Leave Without Pay**

Where operational requirements permit, and on reasonable notice, special leave without pay shall be granted to employees for Union business:

- (a) as members of the Board of Directors of the Union for the attendance at Board meetings;
- (b) as members of the Bargaining Unit Negotiating Committees of the Union for the attendance at Committee Meetings;
- (c) as delegates to attend conventions of the Union's affiliated bodies, including N.U.P.G.E., C.L.C., Nova Scotia Federation of Labour;
- (d) as members of standing Committees of the Union for the attendance at meetings of standing Committees;

- (e) as members of the Executive to attend Executive Meetings of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour;
- (f) for such other legitimate Union business as may be authorized by the Union such as, but not limited to, replacing Union staff, Union educational programs, etc.

Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### **13.02 Notification to Employer**

The Union shall notify the Employer of the names of CDHA employees, including the department wherein the employee is employed, who are members of the Board of Directors, the Union Executive and Bargaining Unit Negotiating Committee.

### **13.03 Salary Continuance**

The Employer will continue the salary of an employee who is granted leave without pay in accordance with Article 13.01 and will bill the Union for the employee's salary.

### **13.04 Annual Meeting/Collective Bargaining Workshop**

- (a) Where operational requirements permit and on reasonable notice as provided in Article 13.04(b), the Employer shall grant leave with pay for a period not exceeding two (2) working days, and leave without pay for travelling time for such portion of the working day prior to and following the meeting as may be required, to employees who are elected or appointed as registered delegates to attend the Annual Meeting or the Collective Bargaining Workshop of the Union. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Employer shall only grant such leave for either the Annual Meeting or the Collective Bargaining Workshop in any one year. However, upon three (3) months advance written request, and if operational requirements permit, the Employer may grant leave as provided herein for both the Annual Meeting and the Collective Bargaining Workshop in the same year if neither were held in the previous year.
- (b) The Union shall notify the Employer in writing of the names, including the department wherein the employee is employed, of the registered delegates attending the Annual Meeting or the Collective Bargaining Workshop of the Union at least three (3) weeks in advance.

- (c) Notwithstanding Article 13.05, the number of employees entitled to attend the Collective Bargaining Workshop shall not exceed five (5) per bargaining unit represented by the Union.

### **13.05 Number of Employees Eligible**

The number of employees eligible for special leave provisions under Articles 13.01 and 13.04 shall be in accordance with the numbers laid down in the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union Constitution.

### **13.06 Contract Negotiations**

Where operational requirements permit, and on reasonable notice, the Employer shall grant leave with pay for not more than five (5) representatives of each bargaining unit for the purpose of attending contract negotiation meetings with the Employer. However, when any joint bargaining unit contract negotiation meetings occur on any one (1) day or part thereof, the Employer shall, where operational requirements permit, grant leave with pay to any eight (8) of these representatives at the same time. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

### **13.07 Arbitration and Joint Consultation**

Where operational requirements permit, and on reasonable notice, the Employer shall grant special leave with pay to employees who are:

- (a) called as a witness by an Arbitration Board as prescribed by Article 26;
- (b) meeting with management in joint consultation as prescribed by Article 27.

### **13.08 Grievance Meetings**

Where operational requirements permit, and on reasonable notice, the Employer shall grant special leave with pay to an employee for the purpose of attending grievance meetings with the Employer.

### **13.09 No Loss of Service/ Seniority**

While on leave for Union business pursuant to this Article, an employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service and seniority credits for the duration of her leave, and her service and seniority shall be deemed to be continuous.

### **13.10 Leave of Absence for the Full-time President**

Leave of absence for the full-time President of the Union shall be granted in accordance with the following:

- (a) An employee who declares her intention to offer for the position of President of the Union shall notify the Employer as soon as possible after declaring her intention to seek the office of the President.
- (b) An employee elected or appointed as President of the Union shall be given leave of absence without pay for the term(s) she is to serve.
- (c) A leave of absence for a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and subsequent consecutive term(s) shall be granted in accordance with paragraph (a) and (b).
- (d) For the purposes of paragraph (b) and (c), the leave of absence shall commence as determined by the Union, provided one month's notice is provided to the Employer.
- (e) All benefits of the employee shall continue in effect while the employee is serving as President, and, for such purposes, the employee shall be deemed to be in the employ of the Employer.
- (f) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (e), the gross salary of the President shall be determined by the Union and paid to the President by the Employer, and the amount of this gross salary shall be reimbursed to the Employer by the Union.
- (g) Upon expiration of her term of office, the employee shall be reinstated in the position she held immediately prior to the commencement of leave, or if the position no longer exists, to another position in accordance with this Agreement.
- (h) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) or any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the period of leave of absence shall be deemed to be continuous service with the Employer for all purposes.
- (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Agreement, vacation earned but not used prior to taking office shall be carried over to be taken in the fiscal year in which the employee returns from leave of absence.
- (j) The Union shall reimburse to the Employer the Employer's share of contributions for EI premiums, Canada Pension Plan, other pension and group insurance premiums made on behalf of the employee during the period of leave of absence.

## ARTICLE 14 - HOURS OF WORK\*

### 14.01 Hours of Work\*

(a)\* Unless this Agreement provides otherwise, the hours of work shall be seventy-five (75) hours per bi-weekly period, normally consisting of ten (10) seven and a half (7 ½) hour shifts. Other shift durations may include but are not limited to eleven and one-quarter (11.25) hours and nine and three-eighth (9 3/8) hours.

(b) **Overtime Exception**

Where during a regular scheduled shift rotation, an employee may be required to work in excess of seventy-five (75) hours in a two (2) week period, additional hours shall not constitute overtime in that two (2) week period, provided the hours of work average seventy-five (75) hours per two (2) weeks of each complete cycle of the shift schedule.

(c) **Rest Intervals between Scheduled Shifts**

With the exception of employees who are working shifts greater than seven and one-half (7 ½) hours, every reasonable effort shall be made by the Employer to avoid scheduling the commencement of a shift within sixteen (16) hours of the completion of the employee's previous shift. In addition to situations arising pursuant to Article 14.03, shift arrangements requested by the employee(s) in writing and approved by the Employer, in variance to the foregoing, shall not constitute a violation of this provision.

(d) **Nurse Educators/Nursing Instructors (Post RN faculty) and Clinical Nurse Educators**

Notwithstanding Article 15, Nurse Educators, Nursing Instructors (Post RN Faculty), Clinical Nurse Educators shall be entitled to overtime as time off in lieu on an hour for hour basis for the first seventy-five (75) hours of approved overtime (OT) in the fiscal period from April 1 to March 31.

(e) After the first seventy-five (75) hours worked referred to in (d) above, approved overtime will be compensated in accordance with the collective agreement.

This provision will be effective April 1, 2008.



#### **14.02 No Guarantee of Hours**

An employee's scheduled hours of work shall not be construed as guaranteeing the employee minimum or maximum hours of work but is a basis for computing overtime.

#### **14.03 Deviations from Scheduled Hours**

It is recognized and understood that deviations from the regular schedules of work will be necessary and will unavoidably result from several causes, such as, but not limited to, leaves of absence, absenteeism, temporary shortage of personnel, and emergencies. Such deviations shall not be a violation of this Agreement.

#### **14.04 Flexible Working Hours**

The Employer will, where operational requirements and efficiency of the service permit, authorize experiments with flexible working hours if the Employer is satisfied that an adequate number of employees have requested and wish to participate in such an experiment.

#### **14.05 Modified Work Week**

Where employees in a unit have indicated a desire to work a modified work week, the Employer may authorize experiments with a modified work week schedule, providing operational requirements permit and the provision of services are not adversely affected. The averaging period for a modified work week shall not exceed three (3) calendar weeks, and the work day shall not exceed ten (10) hours.

#### **14.06 Return to Regular Times of Work**

In the event that a modified work week or flexible working hours system:

- (a) does not result in the provision of a satisfactory service to the public;
- (b) incurs an increase in cost to the employing department; or
- (c) is operationally impractical for other reasons;

The Employer may require a return to regular times of work, in which case the employees shall be provided with sixty (60) calendar days' advance notice of such requirement.

## 14.07 Shift Duration

- (a) In the event that an existing shift duration
  - (i) does not result in the provision of satisfactory service to the public;  
or
  - (ii) is operationally impractical for other reasons;

the Employer will consult with the Union, with the view to minimizing any adverse effects that a change to existing shift duration may have on employees.
- (b) The Employer will give the employees sixty (60) calendar days advance notice of the shift requirement; and invite expressions of interest.
- (c) The expression of interest notice shall include the required:
  - (i) number of employees;
  - (ii) classification;
  - (iii) abilities, experience, qualifications, special skills and physical fitness, where applicable, reflecting the functions of the job concerned; and
  - (iv) shift duration.
- (d) If there are more qualified volunteers than required, preference in filling the positions shall be given to the employees with the greatest length of seniority.
- (e) If there are fewer qualified volunteers than required, the Employer shall staff the shifts with qualified employees, in reverse order of seniority.
- (f) Nothing in this Article precludes the Employer from:
  - (i) maintaining any and all shift arrangements in effect prior to the signing of this Agreement;
  - (ii) hiring employees to staff a specific shift duration;
  - (iii) continuously assigning an employee to a specific shift duration at the employee's request, where such continuing assignment is acceptable to the Employer.

#### **14.08 Meal Breaks and Rest Periods**

For each seven and one-half (7 ½) hour shift, subject to the provisions of Article 14.09, the Employer shall provide an unpaid meal break of one-half (½) hour and paid rest periods totalling one-half (½) hour, not to be taken in less than two (2) breaks. The Employer shall schedule meal breaks in such a way that an employee be permitted to leave her work area. Operational requirements may be such that these breaks may not be able to be taken off the premises. These breaks shall be prorated for shift duration.

#### **14.09 Recall From Meal Breaks and Rest Periods**

Should an employee be recalled to duty during the designated meal break as provided in Article 14.08 and the entire meal break cannot be rescheduled during the shift, the meal break shall be deemed to be time worked and compensated for at the applicable overtime rate set out in Article 15. Should an employee be recalled to duty during the time provided in Article 14.08, other than during the designated meal break, and time off equal to the difference between the break time taken and the total break allowance cannot be granted during the shift, the break time not taken because of recall to duty shall be considered as overtime and compensated for in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.

#### **14.10 Nursing Coverage**

The employees agree to maintain nursing coverage which, in the opinion of the Employer, is adequate for all units during the shift change, meal breaks, and rest periods.

#### **14.11 Days Off**

During the two (2) week period employees shall, whenever possible, receive two (2) days off in each calendar week or four (4) days off in each two (2) week period. At least two (2) of the days off in the two (2) week period shall be consecutive days off.

#### **14.12 Consecutive Shifts**

- (a) The Employer will endeavour, where possible, to provide that no employee is scheduled to work more than seven (7) consecutive days in a two (2) week period. This does not preclude shift arrangements, acceptable to both the Employer and the employee(s), in variance to the foregoing.
- (b) Subject to the limitations of Article 14.03, the Employer shall provide that no employee is scheduled to work more than five (5) consecutive evening

shifts or five (5) consecutive night shifts in a two (2) week period. This does not preclude shift arrangements requested by the employee, in writing, acceptable to both the Employer and the employee(s) in variance to the foregoing.

#### **14.13 Posting of Shift Schedules**

Schedules shall be posted at least four (4) weeks in advance of the schedule to be worked and the schedule shall be for a minimum of two (2) weeks. The Employer shall make every reasonable effort not to change shifts. If the Employer changes the shift schedule within forty-eight (48) hours of the shift, the employee(s) affected shall be entitled to overtime compensation for that shift. The Employer must inform employees of the shift changes made to the posted schedules.

#### **14.14 Exchange of Shifts**

Provided advance notice is given, which notice in the opinion of the Employer is deemed sufficient, and with the approval of the Employer, employees may exchange shifts, where operational requirements permit, and there is no increase in cost to the Employer.

#### **14.15 Week-ends Off\***

The Employer shall provide each shift employee one (1) week-end off in three (3). Arrangements and modifications to same in variance to the foregoing may be mutually agreed upon between the Employer and the employee.

#### **14.16 Split Shifts**

No shift shall be split for a period longer than the regularly scheduled meal and rest periods as provided for in Article 14.08.

#### **14.17 Rotation of Shifts**

Employees required to work rotating shifts (day, evening and night duty) shall be scheduled in such a way as to, as equitably as possible, assign the rotation equally. This does not preclude an employee from being continuously assigned to an evening or night shift at the employee's request where such continuing assignment is acceptable to the Employer.

## 14.18 Weekend Nurse

1. A Weekend Nurse Schedule may be implemented in order to meet the Employer's need for weekend nurse coverage and to accommodate the preference of individual nurses for a weekend schedule. When the Employer creates a new Weekend Nurse position, or when an existing Weekend Nurse position becomes vacant, the Employer will post the position in accordance with Article 10.01.
2. A Weekend Nurse Schedule is defined as a schedule in which a nurse is required to work a weekly average of 30 hours and is paid for 37.5 hours per week at her regular straight time hourly rate. Nurses working under the Weekend Nurse Schedule shall be required to work every weekend, in accordance with the period described in paragraph 5, except pre-scheduled vacation time, holiday time and other approved leave.
3. A nurse working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule shall not attract shift differential or weekend premium, except as provided for in this agreement.
4. A wage supplement (37.5 hours pay for 30 hours work) shall be paid by increasing what would otherwise be the hourly rate for the position by 25%.
5. A nurse working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule may be scheduled from the beginning of the day shift on Friday (0700 hrs) to the end of the day shift on Monday (1900 hrs) inclusive. This time period shall apply notwithstanding any other definition of "weekend" which may exist in the collective agreement. Shift length in the Weekend Nurse Schedule shall not be less than 7.5 hours and shall not be more than 11.25 hours.
6. Time worked in excess of sixty hours in a bi-weekly pay period, or in excess of an employee's scheduled shift, shall be compensated as overtime in accordance with Article 15. Any overtime paid will be based on the nurse's regular hourly rate, exclusive of the wage supplement provided for under paragraph 4.
7. Except as provided in this paragraph, a nurse working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule may only exchange shifts with other nurses working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule. An exemption to this restriction may be given by the Employer provided that such a request can be reasonably accommodated without additional cost to the Employer, and in no case shall such shift exchanges for any specific nurse be permitted more than five times in any given vacation year.

8. Unless the collective agreement provides otherwise, any employee replacing a nurse working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule while that nurse is on a leave of less than one month (e.g. sick leave, vacation, bereavement, etc.) shall be compensated at the regular rate of pay, including any applicable premiums, in accordance with the collective agreement.
9. A nurse working in the Weekend Nurse Schedule shall be eligible for Holiday, Vacation, General Leave and Short Term Illness benefits on the same basis as a full-time employee, except that when a nurse draws from one of the banks associated with these benefits, this will occur at the accelerated rate of 1.25 hours for every hour taken. In any case the total entitlement of a nurse working under this agreement shall not exceed the entitlement of a regular full-time nurse.
10. The Weekend Nurse position shall operate as a pilot project for a period of 12 months from the date of commencement. It shall be subject to evaluation by the parties at six (6), and twelve (12) months. The pilot project may be terminated early, in whole or in part, if either party determines that it is no longer feasible. This may be done by either party providing at least sixty (60) days written notice to the other party, with a copy to the affected incumbents. In the event that such notice is given the parties will meet before the effective date and attempt to resolve problems in the pilot project.
11. If, at any time within the operation of the Weekend Nurse Schedule arrangement, it is deemed that the arrangement does not meet the needs of the parties, the arrangement will convert within ninety (90) days of the decision to a regular full-time position for the incumbent. Such matters may be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change for discussion.
12. Once a nurse has been appointed to a Weekend Nurse position the arrangement may be terminated by the employee upon the giving of sixty (60) days notice in writing.
13. Unless provided otherwise in this provision, all provisions of this collective agreement shall apply.

#### **14.19 Conversion of Hours**

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the following paid leave benefits will be converted to hours on the basis of one day's benefit being equivalent to 1/10 of the regular bi-weekly hours for the employee's classification:

Calculation of Service under Article 1.02(b)  
Leave for Adoption of Child  
Annual Vacation Entitlement  
General Leave  
Vacation Carry Over  
Illness/Injury Benefit  
Paid Holidays under Article 18.01  
Rest Periods  
Bereavement Leave  
Acting Pay - Qualifying Period  
Leave for Birth of Child

#### **14.20 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

#### **14.21 Scheduling Models\***

The Employer may authorize a scheduling model provided that 80% of the staff in the affected unit agree, operational requirements permit, the provision of services are not affected, costs are not increased and the schedule is completed within the timelines in the Collective Agreement for posting schedules. All schedules are subject to final approval and/or amendment by the Manager.

The model adopted will be periodically reviewed and evaluated and the Employer reserves the right to discontinue it if it determines that the above preconditions are no longer being met. The employees affected will be given reasonable notice of discontinuance, no less than the length of any schedule posting period in effect.

#### **14.22 Replacement of Unplanned Absences\***

When an unplanned absence occurs of at least a full shift, the manager or manager's delegate will review the patient population including acuity, the workload and remaining staffing on the unit and assess and determine the effect of the absence on workload and whether a replacement registered nurse or other classification of care provider is required.

## ARTICLE 15 – OVERTIME

### 15.01 Definitions

In this Article and Article 18:

- (a) **"overtime"** means authorized work in excess of an employee's regular work day or normal bi-weekly hours for employees whose hours of work are set out in Article 14.01.
- (b) **"time and one-half"** means one and one-half (1 ½) times the straight time rate calculated by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{bi-weekly rate} \times 1 \frac{1}{2}}{\text{normal bi-weekly hours}}$$

- (c) **"double time"** means two (2) times the straight time rate calculated by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{bi-weekly rate} \times 2}{\text{normal bi-weekly hours}}$$

### 15.02 Allocation and Notice of Overtime

Subject to the operational requirements of the service, the Employer shall make every reasonable effort:

- (a) to allocate overtime work on a fair and equitable basis among readily available and qualified employees; and
- (b) to give employees who are required to work overtime, adequate advance notice of this requirement.

### 15.03 Union Consultation

The Union is entitled to consult the Employer or its representative, whenever it is alleged that employees are required to work unreasonable amounts of overtime.

### 15.04 Overtime Compensation

Time worked in addition to the regular scheduled shifts or time worked in a bi-weekly pay period that is in excess of the bi-weekly hours shall be compensated at the rate of one and one half (1½T) times the regular hourly rate for the overtime worked. An employee who works in excess of four (4) hours overtime in any one day shall be compensated at the rate of two times (2T) the regular



hourly rate for the overtime worked which shall include the first four (4) hours at double time.

The above provision will be effective only from the date of issuance of a Selector's decision pursuant to the July 5, 2001 agreement between the Province of Nova Scotia, CUPE, NSGEU and NSNU.

#### **15.05 Overtime Eligibility**

An employee must work at least fifteen (15) minutes beyond her normal shift before being eligible for overtime compensation.

#### **15.06 Overtime Meal Allowance**

An employee, who is required to work a minimum of three (3) hours' overtime immediately following her scheduled hours of work and where it is not practical for her to enjoy her usual meal time before commencing such work, shall be granted reasonable time with pay, as determined by the Employer, in order that she may take a meal break either at or adjacent to her place of work. Under such conditions she shall be provided a voucher for one (1) meal in the amount of \$15.00 or where meal service is unavailable, the employee will receive reimbursement in the amount of \$15.00 through the payroll system.

#### **15.07 Computation of Overtime**

In computing overtime a period of thirty (30) minutes or less shall be counted as one-half (  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) hour and a period of more than thirty (30) minutes but less than sixty (60) minutes shall be counted as one (1) hour.

#### **15.08 Form of Compensation**

Compensation for overtime shall be paid except where, upon request of the employee, and with the approval of the Employer, or its representative, overtime may be granted in the form of time off in lieu of overtime hours worked.

#### **15.09 Time Off in Lieu of Overtime**

Where time off with pay in lieu of overtime hours worked has not been granted prior to the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) calendar month immediately following the month in which the overtime was worked, compensation for overtime shall be paid.

### **15.10 Carry Over of Overtime**

Notwithstanding Article 15.09, an employee may request to have accumulated overtime carried over for a maximum of twelve (12) months. Such a request shall not be unreasonably denied. If time off with pay in lieu of overtime hours has not been granted prior to the end of this time, compensation for overtime shall be paid.

### **15.11 No Layoff to Compensate for Overtime**

An employee shall not be subject to layoff by the Employer during regularly scheduled hours of work, established in accordance with Article 14, in order to equalize any overtime worked.

### **15.12 Daylight Saving Time**

The changing of Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time, or vice versa, shall not result in employees being paid more or less than their normal scheduled daily hours. The hour difference shall be split between the employees completing their shift and those commencing their shift.

### **15.13 Call-In**

- (a) An employee required to report back to work after leaving the premises of the work location following completion of a shift, but before the commencement of the next shift, except as required under Article 16, or called back to work on a day the employee is not scheduled to work, except as required under Article 16, shall be granted a minimum of four (4) hours pay at straight time rates or the applicable overtime rate, whichever is greater. The minimum guarantee of four (4) hours pay shall not apply to part-time employees who are offered additional hours for a period of less than four (4) hours.
- (b) An employee on the Employer's premises prior to the commencement of her shift, who is requested to begin work by the Employer, shall be eligible for overtime rates for that period of time before her actual shift is scheduled to begin.

### **15.14 Compensation for Performing Other Duties**

When an employee is required to work overtime and during the overtime hours performs duties of a classification other than the duties of her regular classification, she will be compensated for the overtime worked at the rate applicable to the duties performed during the overtime but shall in no case be paid a rate lower than her regular overtime rate.

## **ARTICLE 16 - STANDBY AND CALLBACK\***

### **16.01 Standby Compensation\***

- (a)\* Employees who are required by the Employer to standby shall receive standby pay of thirteen dollars and fifty cents (\$13.50) for each standby period of eight (8) hours or less.

Effective October 31, 2014, employees who are required by the Employer to standby shall receive standby pay of sixteen dollars and twenty-one cents (\$16.21) for each standby period of eight (8) hours or less.

- (b)\* Employees who are required by the Employer to standby on a Holiday as listed in Article 18, shall receive standby pay of twenty-seven dollars (\$27.00) for each standby period of eight (8) hours or less. This premium shall increase to thirty-two dollars and forty cents (\$32.40) per period of either (8) hours or less effective October 31, 2014.

### **16.02 Employee Availability**

- (a) An employee designated for standby duty shall be available during her period of standby duty at a known telephone number or pager number and be able to report for duty as quickly as possible if called.
- (b) The Employer, at its own expense, will supply pagers to members of the bargaining unit who are designated for standby duty.

### **16.03 Failure to Report**

No compensation shall be granted for the total period of standby if the employee is unable to report for duty when required.

### **16.04 Callback Compensation**

- (a) An employee who is called back to work and who reports for work shall be compensated for a minimum of four (4) hours at the straight time rate for the period worked, or at the applicable overtime rate, whichever is greater. The minimum guarantee of four (4) hours pay at the straight time rate shall apply only once during each eight (8) consecutive hours on standby.
- (b) When a part-time employee is not scheduled to work but is required by the Employer to standby, the day(s) on standby shall be considered as the employee's rest day(s) and shall be compensated for all call back as

overtime in accordance with Article 15 or a minimum of four (4) hours at the straight time rate, whichever is greater.

#### **16.05 Transportation Allowance and Parking for Callback\***

Employees called back shall be reimbursed for transportation to and from the workplace to a maximum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per call each way. An employee who is called back to work and who reports for work shall be reimbursed for parking costs.

#### **16.06 Rest Interval After Callback\***

The Employer shall provide at least eight (8) hours between the time an employee completes a period of callback and the commencement of the employee's next scheduled shift. During an eight (8) hour period of standby, if the first callback is within two (2) hours of the commencement of the next scheduled shift, the employee shall not be entitled to an eight (8) hour rest interval. If mutually agreeable between the employee and the Employer, arrangements in variance to the foregoing will be acceptable and will not constitute a violation of this Article.

#### **16.07 Compensation Where Rest Interval Not Taken\***

Subject to Article 16.06, where, because operational requirements do not permit or where mutually agreeable variations between the employee and the Employer are not acceptable, the eight (8) hour rest period, pursuant to Article 16.06, cannot be accommodated, the hours worked from the commencement of the regular shift to the end of the period on which the rest period would normally end shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half (1 ½T).

### **ARTICLE 17 – VACATIONS\***

#### **17.01 Annual Vacation Entitlement**

- (a) An employee shall be entitled to receive annual vacation leave with pay:
  - (i) each year during her first forty-eight (48) months of service at the rate of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) days for each month of service; and
  - (ii) each year after forty-eight (48) months of service at the rate of one and two-thirds (1 2/3) days for each month of service; and

- (iii) each year after one hundred and sixty-eight (168) months of service at the rate of two and one-twelfth (2-1/12) days for each month of service; and
  - (iv) each year after two hundred and eighty-eight (288) months of service at the rate of two and one-half (2 ½) days for each month of service.
- (b) An employee who, as of February 19, 2001, has earned entitlement to more vacation than provided for in Article 17.01(a) of the collective agreement by virtue of her terms and conditions of employment with a predecessor employer shall retain that entitlement. Any future increase in vacation entitlement for such employees shall be pursuant to Article 17.01(a).

### **17.02 Vacation Year**

The vacation year shall be April 1 to March 31, inclusive.

### **17.03 Authorization**

An employee shall be granted vacation leave at such time during the year as the immediate management supervisor determines.

### **17.04 Vacation Scheduling**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, vacation leave entitlement shall be used within the year in which it is earned. The employee shall advise the immediate management supervisor in writing of her vacation preference as soon as possible for the following vacation year but before March 1st in each year. The immediate management supervisor will respond in writing by April 1st indicating whether or not the employee's vacation request is authorized.
- (b) Preference in vacation schedule shall be given to those employees with greater length of seniority.
- (c) After the vacation schedule is posted, if operational requirements permit additional employee(s) to be on vacation leave, such leave shall be offered to employees on a work unit by seniority to those employees who may have requested the leave but were denied the leave for their request submitted before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Any additional vacation shall be granted on a first come, first serve basis.

### **17.05 Employee Request**

Subject to the operational requirements of the service, the Employer shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that an employee's written request for vacation leave is approved. Where, in scheduling vacation leave, the Employer is unable to comply with the employee's written request, the immediate management supervisor shall:

- (a) give the reason for disapproval; and
- (b) make every reasonable effort to grant an employee's vacation leave in the amount and at such time as the employee may request in an alternative request.

Where operational requirements necessitate a decision by the Employer to place a restriction on the number of employees on vacation leave at any one time, preference shall be given to the employees with the greatest length of seniority.

### **17.06 Restriction on Numbers of Employees on Vacation**

- (a) During the peak vacation period, commencing the second full week of June and ending after the second full week of September of each year, preference for a period of up to four (4) complete weeks of unbroken vacation shall be given to employees with the greatest length of seniority. To exercise this preference, an employee need not pick consecutive weeks.
- (b) After each employee has been granted vacation in accordance with Article 17.06(a), all remaining vacation entitlement shall be granted in accordance with seniority. Once seniority has been exercised for the period of up to four (4) complete weeks, remaining requests will be granted by seniority, i.e. all second requests and then all third requests.
- (c) After the vacation schedule is posted, if operational requirements permit additional employees to be on vacation leave, such leave shall be offered by seniority to employees provided the employees requested that time in accordance with Article 17.04(a).

### **17.07 Unbroken Vacation**

Except during the period of time referred to in Article 17.06, where operational requirements permit, the employer shall make every reasonable effort to grant to an employee her request to enjoy her vacation entitlement in a single unbroken period of leave.

### **17.08 Vacation Carry Over**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, vacation leave for a period of not more than five (5) days may, with the consent of the immediate management supervisor, be carried over to the following year, but shall lapse if not used before the close of that year. Request for vacation carry over entitlement shall be made in writing by the employee to the immediate management supervisor not later than January 31st of the year in which the vacation is earned, provided however that the immediate management supervisor may accept a shorter period of notice of the request. The immediate management supervisor shall respond in writing within one (1) calendar month of receiving an employee's request.
- (b) An employee scheduled to take vacation and who is unable to do so within the vacation year due to illness or injury shall be entitled to carry over this unused vacation to the subsequent year.

### **17.09 Accumulative Vacation Carry Over**

An employee, on the recommendation of the immediate management supervisor and with the approval of the Employer, may be granted permission to carry over five (5) days of her vacation leave each year to a maximum of twenty (20) days, if in the opinion of the immediate management supervisor, it will not interfere with the efficient operation of the Department.

### **17.10 Use of Accumulated Vacation Carry Over**

The vacation leave approved pursuant to Article 17.09 shall be used within five (5) years subsequent to the date on which it was approved and shall lapse if not used within that period unless the immediate management supervisor recommends that the time be extended and the recommendation is approved by the Employer.

### **17.11 Borrowing of Unearned Vacation Credits**

With the approval of the Employer, an employee who has been employed for a period of five (5) or more years may be granted five (5) days from the vacation leave of the next subsequent year.

### **17.12 Employee Compensation Upon Separation**

An employee, upon her separation from employment, shall be compensated for vacation leave to which she is entitled.

### **17.13 Employer Compensation Upon Separation**

An employee, upon her separation from employment, shall compensate the Employer for vacation which was taken but to which she was not entitled.

### **17.14 Vacation Credits Upon Death**

When the employment of an employee who has been granted more vacation with pay than she has earned is terminated by death, the employee is considered to have earned the amount of leave with pay granted to her.

### **17.15 Vacation Records**

An employee is entitled to be informed, upon request, of the balance of her vacation leave with pay credits.

### **17.16 Recall from Vacation**

The Employer will make every reasonable effort not to recall an employee to duty after she has proceeded on vacation leave or to cancel vacation once it has been approved.

### **17.17 Reimbursement of Expenses upon Recall**

Where, during any period of approved vacation, an employee is recalled to duty, she shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses, subject to the provisions of Article 28, that she incurs:

- (a) in proceeding to her place of duty; and
- (b) in returning to the place from which she was recalled if she immediately resumes vacation leave upon completing the assignment for which she was recalled.

In addition to the above, an employee shall be compensated at two (2) times her regular rate of pay for time worked during the period of recall from vacation.

### **17.18 Reinstatement of Vacation Upon Recall**

The period of vacation leave so displaced resulting from recall and transportation time in accordance with Articles 17.16 and 17.17, shall either be added to the vacation period, if requested by the employee and approved by the Employer, or reinstated for use at a later date.



### **17.19 Illness During Vacation**

If an employee becomes ill during a period of vacation and the illness is for a period of three (3) or more consecutive days, and such illness is supported by a medical certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner on such form as the Employer may from time to time prescribe, the employee will be granted sick leave and her vacation credits restored to the extent of the sick leave. The form is to be provided to the Employer immediately upon the return of the employee. If the employee does not have access to the Employer's form, the employee shall provide the Employer with a medical certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner with the following information:

- (a) the date the employee saw the physician;
- (b) the date the employee became ill;
- (c) the nature of the illness; and
- (d) the duration, or the expected duration of the illness.

Upon the employee's return, she shall sign an authorization if requested by Occupational Health Services, permitting the physician to clarify or elaborate on the nature of the employee's illness or injury, as it relates to this claim, to Occupational Health Services in accordance with Article 21.

### **17.20 Days of Rest During Vacation\***

In this Article, "vacation period" means an employee's pre-approved and scheduled vacation, commencing at the beginning of the first scheduled work day off and concluding at the beginning of the next scheduled work day. Days of rest within the vacation period may only be changed in the event of an emergency. In the event of an emergency the provision for reimbursement of expenses in Article 17.17 shall apply and the employee shall be paid at the rate of two times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked during the vacation period.

## **ARTICLE 18 – HOLIDAYS**

### **18.01 Paid Holidays**

The holidays designated for employees shall be:

- (a) New Year's Day
- (b) Good Friday
- (c) Easter Monday

- (d) Victoria Day
- (e) Canada Day
- (f) Labour Day
- (g) Thanksgiving Day
- (h) Remembrance Day
- (i) Christmas Day
- (j) Boxing Day
- (k) One (1) additional day in each year that, in the opinion of the Employer, is recognized to be a provincial or civic holiday in the area in which the employee is employed, or, in any area where, in the opinion of the Employer, no such additional day is recognized as a provincial or civic holiday, the first Monday in August.
- (l) one-half (1/2) day beginning at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve Day
- (m) any other day or part of a day declared by the province of Nova Scotia to be a general holiday.

### **18.02 Exception**

Article 18.01 does not apply to an employee who is absent without pay on both the working day immediately preceding and the working day following the designated holiday.

### **18.03 Holiday Falling on a Day of Rest**

When a day designated as a holiday coincides with the employee's day of rest, the Employer shall grant the holiday with pay on either:

- (a) the working day immediately following her day of rest; or
- (b) the day following the employee's annual vacation; or
- (c) another mutually acceptable day between the Employer and the employee.

### **18.04 Holiday Coinciding with Paid Leave**

Where a day that is a designated holiday for an employee as defined in Article 18.01, falls within a period of leave with pay, the holiday shall not count as a day of leave.

### **18.05 Compensation for Work on a Holiday**

- (a) Where an employee is regularly scheduled to work, in accordance with Article 14, and her regularly scheduled day of work falls on a paid holiday,

as defined in Article 18.01, she shall receive compensation equal to two and one-half (2½) times her regular rate of pay as follows:

- (i) compensation at one and one-half (1½) times her regular rate of pay, including the holiday pay, for the hours worked on the holiday; and
  - (ii) time off with pay in lieu of the holiday on an hour-for-hour basis at a mutually acceptable time prior to the end of the second calendar month immediately following the month in which the holiday fell.
- (b) Where time off with pay in lieu of the holiday has not been granted in accordance with Article 18.05(a)(ii), compensation shall be granted at the employee's regular rate of pay for those hours worked on the holiday.

#### **18.06 Overtime on a Holiday**

- (a) Where an employee is required to work overtime on a paid holiday, as defined in Article 18.01, she will receive compensation equal to three-point-three-three (3.33) times her regular rate as follows:
- (i) compensation at two-point-three-three (2.33) times her regular rate of pay, including the holiday pay, for the hours worked on the holiday; and
  - (ii) time off with pay in lieu of the holiday on an hour for hour basis at a mutually acceptable time prior to the end of the second calendar month immediately following the month in which the holiday fell.
- (b) Where time off with pay in lieu of the holiday has not been granted in accordance with Article 18.06 (a)(ii), compensation shall be granted at the employee's regular rate of pay for those hours worked on the holiday.

#### **18.07 Religious Day in Lieu**

An employee who is entitled to time off with pay in lieu of Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas and/or Boxing Day pursuant to Article 18.03 (c), 18.05 (a) (ii) and/or 18.06 (a) (ii) may take such time with pay in lieu at a time that permits her to observe a holy day of her own faith. The employee shall advise her immediate management supervisor in writing of her desire to take such day(s) off in lieu as soon as possible but before March 1<sup>st</sup> in each year and the immediate management supervisor will endeavour to grant the request where operational requirements permit.

### **18.08 Time Off in Lieu of Holiday**

In no case shall the total time off in lieu of a holiday referred to in 18.05(a)(ii), 18.06(a)(ii) and 18.07 above exceed the equivalent of one complete shift.

### **18.09 Christmas or New Year's Day Off**

Each employee shall receive either Christmas Day or New Year's Day off, unless otherwise mutually agreed, and every effort will be made to give at least two (2) other holidays off on the actual day of the holiday.

### **18.10 Illness on a Paid Holiday**

- (a) An employee who is scheduled to work on a paid holiday, as defined in Article 18.01, and who is unable to report for work due to a reason covered by Article 19.11 (General Leave), shall receive sick leave for that day, and shall be granted time off in lieu of the holiday at a mutually acceptable time prior to the end of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) calendar month immediately following the month in which the holiday fell.
- (b) Where time off with pay in lieu of the holiday has not been granted in accordance with Article 18.10(a), compensation shall be granted at the employee's regular rate of pay for those hours.
- (c) An employee who is on Short Term Illness pursuant to Article 21 (Illness/Injury Benefit), shall be deemed to have received the holiday pay on the day designated as a holiday.

### **18.11 Time Off in Lieu for Part-time and Job Share Employees**

Where a part-time employee or an employee in a job sharing arrangement works on a holiday, in addition to compensation at the applicable rate, she will receive time off with pay in lieu of the holiday, on an hour for hour basis, at a mutually acceptable time prior to the end of the second calendar month immediately following the month in which the holiday fell.

For purposes of clarity it is understood that a part-time employee or an employee in a job sharing arrangement would receive time off in lieu of the holiday in the amount of 7.5 hours for 7.5 hours worked and 11.25 hours for 11.25 hours worked.

## ARTICLE 19 – LEAVES\*

### 19.01 Special Leave

The Employer, in any one year, may grant to an employee:

- (a) special leave without pay for such a period as it deems circumstances warrant;
- (b) special leave with pay for reasons other than those covered by 19.02 to 19.11 inclusive, for such period as it deems circumstances warrant.

### 19.02 Bereavement Leave\*

- (a) If a death occurs in the employee's immediate family when the employee is at work, the employee shall be granted leave with pay for the remainder of her scheduled shift. The employee shall also be granted seven (7) calendar days' leave of absence effective midnight following the death and shall be paid for all shifts the employee is scheduled to work during that seven (7) calendar day period. In any event, the employee shall be entitled to thirty-seven and one-half (37 ½) consecutive hours paid leave, even if this extends past the seven (7) calendar days leave. "Immediate Family" is defined as the employee's father, mother, guardian, brother, sister, spouse, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, step-child or ward of the employee, grandparent or grandchild of the employee, step-mother, step-father, step-sister, step-brother, step-grandparent, step-grandchild and a relative permanently residing in the employee's household or with whom the employee permanently resides. For employees whose hours of work are seventy (70) hours bi-weekly or eighty (80) hours bi-weekly the entitlement shall be thirty-five (35)/forty (40) consecutive hours paid leave, even if this extends past the seven (7) calendar days.

The "in-law" and "step-relative" relationships referred to in this provision will only be considered "immediate family" in cases where it is a current relationship at the time of the death, otherwise eligibility will be determined in accordance with paragraph (b) below.

- (b) Every employee shall be entitled to leave with pay up to a maximum of one (1) day in the event of death of the employee's brother-in-law or sister-in-law, and may be granted up to two (2) days for travel for purposes of attending the funeral and shall be paid for those travel days which are not regularly scheduled days of rest.

- (c) Every employee shall be entitled to one (1) day leave without pay, for the purpose of attending the funeral of an employee's aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, or the grandparents of the spouse of the employee. The employee may elect that such bereavement leave be paid by charging the time to the employee's accumulated vacation, accumulated holiday, or accumulated overtime.
- (d) The above entitlement is subject to the proviso that proper notification is made to the Employer.
- (e) If an employee is on vacation or sick leave at the time of bereavement, the employee shall be granted bereavement leave and be credited the appropriate number of days to her vacation or sick leave credits.
- (f)\* In the event that the funeral or internment for any of the Immediate Family does not take place within the period of bereavement leave provided but occurs later, the Nurse may defer the final day of his or her bereavement leave without loss of regular pay until the day of the funeral or internment. The Nurse shall notify the Employer of this deferment at the time of the bereavement leave.

### **19.03 Court Leave**

Leave of absence with pay shall be given to every employee, other than an employee on leave of absence without pay or under suspension, who is required:

- (a) to serve on a jury; or
- (b) by subpoena or summons to attend as a witness in any proceeding held:
  - (i) in or under the authority of a court; or
  - (ii) before an arbitrator or umpire or a person or body of persons authorized by law to make an inquiry and to compel the attendance of witnesses before it; or
  - (iii) before a legislative council, legislative assembly or any committee thereof that is authorized by law to compel the attendance of witnesses before it.
- (c) Where an employee notifies the Employer in advance, where possible, that she is required to serve pursuant to the provisions of Article 19.03(b)(i), as a result of the functions the employee fulfills on behalf of the Employer on a day other than a regularly scheduled work day, the

Employer will consider an employee's request to cover the time lost on a day of rest or vacation day for that period of time required by the court for the purpose of giving evidence pursuant to this Article.

#### **19.04 Jury Compensation**

Any employee given leave of absence with pay to serve on a jury pursuant to Article 19.03 shall have deducted from her salary an amount equal to the amount that the employee receives for such jury duty after deduction of reasonable expenses.

#### **19.05 Selection/Promotion Process Leave**

When an employee participates in an Employer personnel selection or promotion process, she shall be granted a leave of absence with pay for the period during which the employee's presence is required for purposes of the selection or promotion process. Such leave of absence shall be requested by the employee of her immediate management supervisor as soon as the requirement of her presence is known.

#### **19.06 Pregnancy Leave**

- (a) The Employer shall not terminate the employment of an employee because of her pregnancy.
- (b) A pregnant employee, who has been employed with the Employer for at least one (1) year, is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to seventeen (17) weeks.
- (c) An employee shall, no later than the fifth (5th) month of pregnancy, forward to the Employer a written request for pregnancy leave.
- (d) The Employer may, prior to approving such leave, request a certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner stating that the employee is pregnant and specifying the expected date of delivery.
- (e) Pregnancy leave shall begin on such date as the employee determines, but not sooner than sixteen (16) weeks preceding the expected date of delivery, and not later than the date of delivery.
- (f) Pregnancy leave shall end on such date as the employee determines, but not sooner than one (1) week after the date of delivery, and not later than seventeen (17) weeks after the pregnancy leave began.

- (g) A pregnant employee shall provide the Employer with at least four (4) weeks notice of the date she will begin her pregnancy leave. Such notice may be amended from time to time by the employee:
  - (i) by changing any date in the notice to an earlier date if the notice is amended at least two (2) weeks before that earlier date;
  - (ii) by changing any date in the notice to a later date if the notice is amended at least two (2) weeks before the original date.
- (h) An employee shall endeavour to provide the Employer with four (4) weeks' notice, and in any event, shall not provide less than two (2) weeks' notice of the date the employee will return to work on completion of the pregnancy leave, unless the employee gives notice pursuant to Article 19.07(f).
- (i) Where notice as required under Article 19.06(g) or (h) is not possible due to circumstances beyond the control of the employee, the employee shall provide the Employer as much notice as reasonably practicable of the commencement of her leave or her return to work.
- (j) The Employer may require a pregnant employee to take an unpaid leave of absence while the duties of her position cannot reasonably be performed by a pregnant woman or the performance of the employee's work is materially affected unless the Employer can reasonably modify the employee's duties for the period required or temporarily re-assign the employee to alternate duties or another classification. The Union shall support any modification of duties or temporary re-assignment as provided in this provision.
- (k) Where an employee reports for work upon the expiration of the period referred to in Article 19.06(f), the employee shall resume work in the same position she held prior to the commencement of the pregnancy leave, with no loss of seniority or benefits accrued to the commencement of the pregnancy leave. Where the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (l) While an employee is on pregnancy leave, the Employer shall maintain coverage for medical, extended health, group life and any other employee benefit plans and shall continue to pay its share of premium costs for maintaining such coverage during the period of pregnancy leave.
- (m) While on pregnancy leave, an employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service and seniority credits for the duration of her leave, and her service and seniority shall be deemed to be continuous. However,



service accumulated during pregnancy leave shall not be used for the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits. For the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits during the year in which pregnancy leave is taken, one (1) month of service shall be credited to an employee who does not receive salary for a total of seventeen (17) days or more during the first and last calendar months of the pregnancy leave granted under Article 19.06(b).

- (n) Leave for illness of an employee arising out of or associated with the employee's pregnancy prior to the commencement of, or the ending of, pregnancy leave granted in accordance with Article 19.06(b), may be granted sick leave in accordance with the provisions of Article 21.

(o) **Pregnancy/Birth Leave Allowance**

- (i) An employee entitled to pregnancy leave under the provisions of this Agreement, who provides the Employer with proof that she has applied for, and is eligible to receive employment insurance (E.I.) benefits pursuant to Section 22, *Employment Insurance Act*, S.C. 1996, c.23, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (S.E.B.).
- (ii) In respect to the period of pregnancy leave, payments made according to the S.E.B. Plan will consist of the following:
  - (1) Where the employee is subject to a waiting period of two (2) weeks before receiving E. I. benefits, payments equivalent to seventy-five per cent (75%) of her weekly rate of pay for each week of the two (2) week waiting period, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period;
  - (2) Up to a maximum of five (5) additional weeks, payments equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefits the employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three per cent (93%) of her weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the employee would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during the period.
- (iii) For the purpose of this allowance, an employee's weekly rate of pay will be one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the bi-weekly rate of pay to which the employee is entitled for her classification on the date immediately preceding the commencement of her pregnancy leave. In the case of a part-time employee, such weekly rate of pay will be multiplied

by the fraction obtained from dividing the employee's time worked (as defined for the purpose of accumulating service) averaged over the preceding twenty-six (26) weeks by the regularly scheduled full-time hours of work for the employee's classification.

- (iv) Where an employee becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, benefits under the S.E.B. plan will be adjusted accordingly.
- (v) The Employer will not reimburse the employee for any amount she is required to remit to Human Resources Development Canada, where her annual income exceeds one and one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) times the maximum yearly insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act*.
- (vi) It is understood that employees entitled to the seven (7) weeks Birth Allowance as provided in this Article may be eligible for an additional Parental Leave Allowance which, when combined with the Birth Allowance may result in eligibility up to a maximum of seventeen (17) weeks allowance.

#### **19.07 Parental Leave**

- (a) An employee who has been employed with the Employer for at least one (1) year, and who becomes a parent for one or more children through the birth of the child or children is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to thirty-five (35) weeks.
- (b) Where an employee takes pregnancy leave pursuant to Article 19.06 and the employee's new born child or children arrive in the employee's home during pregnancy leave, parental leave begins immediately upon completion of the pregnancy leave and without the employee returning to work and ends not later than thirty-five (35) weeks after the parental leave began.
- (c) Where an employee did not take pregnancy leave pursuant to Article 19.06, parental leave begins on such date as determined by the employee, coinciding with or after the birth of the child or children first arriving in the employee's home, and ends not later than thirty-five (35) weeks after the parental leave begins or fifty-two (52) weeks after the child or children first arrive in the employee's home, whichever is earlier.
- (d) Notwithstanding Article 19.07(b) or (c), where an employee has begun parental leave, and the child to whom the parental leave relates is hospitalized for a period exceeding, or likely to exceed one (1) week, the

employee is entitled to return to and resume work in the position held immediately before the leave began or, where that position is not available, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change. The employee is entitled to only one (1) interruption and deferral of each parental leave.

- (e) The employee shall give the Employer two (2) weeks notice of the date the employee will begin parental leave.
- (f) The employee shall give the Employer two (2) weeks notice of the date the employee will return to work upon completion of the parental leave.
- (g) Where an employee reports for work upon the expiration of the period referred to in Article 19.07(a), the employee shall resume work in the same position she held prior to the commencement of the parental leave. If the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (h) While on parental leave, an employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service and seniority credits for the duration of her leave, and her service and seniority shall be deemed to be continuous. However, service accumulated during parental leave shall not be used for the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits. For the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits during the year in which parental leave is taken, one (1) month of service shall be credited to an employee who does not receive salary for a total of seventeen (17) days or more during the first and last calendar months of the parental leave granted under Article 19.07(a).
- (i) The employee shall have the option of maintaining the benefit plans in which the employee participated prior to the commencement of the employee's parental leave.
- (j) The Employer shall notify the employee of the option and the date beyond which the option referred to in Article 19.07(i) may no longer be exercised at least ten (10) days prior to the last day on which the option could be exercised to avoid an interruption of benefits.
- (k) Where the employee opts in writing to maintain the benefit plans referred to in Article 19.07(i), the employee shall enter into an arrangement with the Employer to pay the cost required to maintain the benefit plans, including the Employer's share thereof, and the Employer shall process the documentation and payments as arranged.

## 19.08 Adoption Leave

- (a) An employee who has been employed with the Employer for at least one (1) year, who becomes a parent for one or more children through the placement of the child or children in the care of the employee for the purpose of adoption of the child or children pursuant to the law of the Province is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of up to thirty-five (35) weeks, or more, if required by the adoption agency.
- (b) The Employer shall require an employee who requests Adoption Leave pursuant to Article 19.08(a) to submit a certificate from an official in the Department of Community Services, or equivalent, to establish the entitlement of the employee to the Adoption Leave.
- (c) Adoption leave begins on such date as determined by the employee, coinciding with the child or children first arriving in the employee's home, and ends not later than thirty-five (35) weeks after the adoption leave begins or fifty-two (52) weeks after the child or children first arrive in the employee's home, whichever is earlier.
- (d) Notwithstanding Article 19.08(b), where an employee has begun adoption leave, and the child to whom the adoption leave relates is hospitalized for a period exceeding, or likely to exceed one (1) week, the employee is entitled to return to and resume work in the position held immediately before the leave began or, where the position is not available, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change. The employee is entitled to only one (1) interruption and deferral of each adoption leave.
- (e) The employee shall give the Employer two (2) weeks notice of the date the employee will begin adoption leave.
- (f) The employee shall give the Employer two (2) weeks notice of the date the employee will return to work upon completion of the adoption leave.
- (g) Where an employee reports for work upon the expiration of the period referred to in Article 19.08(a), the employee shall resume work in the same position she held prior to the commencement of the adoption leave. If the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (h) While on adoption leave, an employee shall continue to accrue and accumulate service and seniority credits for the duration of her leave, and her service and seniority shall be deemed to be continuous. However, service accumulated during adoption leave shall not be used for the

purposes of calculating vacation leave credits. For the purposes of calculating vacation leave credits during the year in which adoption leave is taken, one (1) month of service shall be credited to an employee who does not receive salary for a total of seventeen (17) days or more during the first and last calendar months of the adoption leave granted under Article 19.08(a).

(i) **Parental and Adoption Leave Allowance**

- (i) An employee entitled to parental or adoption leave under the provisions of this Agreement, who provides the Employer with proof that she/he has applied for and is eligible to receive employment insurance (E.I.) benefits pursuant to the Employment Insurance Act, 1996, shall be paid an allowance in accordance with the Supplementary Employment Benefit (S.E.B.) Plan.
- (ii) The parental leave allowance of an employee who has taken the pregnancy/birth leave allowance, shall begin immediately upon the exhaustion of the pregnancy/birth allowance without the employee's returning to work.
- (iii) In respect to the period of parental or adoption leave, payments made according to the S.E.B. Plan will consist of the following:
  - (1) Where the employee is subject to a waiting period of two (2) weeks before receiving E.I. benefits, payments equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of her/his weekly rate of pay for each week of the two (2) week waiting period, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period;
  - (2) Up to a maximum of ten (10) additional weeks, payments equivalent to the difference between the weekly E.I. benefits the employee is eligible to receive and ninety-three per cent (93%) of her/his weekly rate of pay, less any other earnings received by the employee during the benefit period which may result in a decrease in the E.I. benefits to which the employee would have been eligible if no other earnings had been received during the period.
- (iv) For the purposes of this allowance, an employee's weekly rate of pay will be one-half the bi-weekly rate of pay to which the employee is entitled for her/his classification on the day immediately preceding the commencement of the adoption leave. In the case of a part-time employee, such weekly rate of pay will be multiplied by the fraction obtained from dividing the employee's time worked (as

defined for the purpose of accumulating service) averaged over the preceding twenty-six (26) weeks by the regularly scheduled full-time hours of work for the employee's classification.

- (v) Where an employee becomes eligible for a salary increment or pay increase during the benefit period, payments under the S.E.B. Plan will be adjusted accordingly.
- (vi) The Employer will not reimburse the employee for any amount she/he is required to remit to Human Resources Development Canada where her/his annual income exceeds one and one-half (1 ½) times the maximum yearly insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act*.

#### **19.09 Leave for Birth of Child**

On the occasion of the birth of his child, a spouse who is an employee shall be granted special leave with pay up to a maximum of one (1) day during the confinement of the mother. This leave may be divided into two (2) periods and granted on separate days.

#### **19.10 Leave for Adoption of Child**

An employee shall be granted one (1) day's leave with pay for the purpose of the adoption of a child by the employee, or the employee's spouse. This leave may be divided into two (2) periods and granted on separate days.

#### **19.11 General Leave**

- (a) Employees shall be entitled to leave with pay for General Leave. The combined use of General Leave shall not exceed fifteen (15) days per fiscal year.
- (b) The immediate management supervisor may require proof of the need for such leave as she considers necessary.
- (c) General Leave consists of:
  - (i) **Personal Illness and Injury**

An employee who is unable to perform her duties because of illness or injury for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive working days, may be granted leave with pay up to a maximum of fifteen (15) working days per fiscal year.

(ii) **Leave for Family Illness**

In the case of illness of a member of an employee's immediate family, meaning spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, or person to whom the employee is legal guardian when no one at home other than the employee can provide for the needs of the ill person, the employee may be granted, after notifying her immediate management supervisor, leave with pay up to five (5) working days per fiscal year, for the purpose of making such arrangements as are necessary to permit the employee's return to work. The immediate management supervisor may require proof of the need for such leave as she considers necessary.

(iii) **Leave for Emergency**

An employee shall be granted leave of absence with pay up to two (2) working days per fiscal year for a critical condition which requires her personal attention resulting from an emergency which cannot be served by others or attended to by the employee at a time when she is normally off duty.

(iv) **Leave for Medical and Dental Appointments**

Employees shall be allowed paid leave of absence up to three (3) working days per fiscal year, in order to engage in personal preventative medical and dental care.

- (d) For clarification, the combined use of General Leave shall not exceed fifteen (15) days per fiscal year, and within the fifteen (15) days:
- (i) leave for family illness shall not exceed five (5) days per fiscal year;
  - (ii) leave for emergency shall not exceed two (2) days per fiscal year;
  - (iii) leave for medical and dental appointments shall not exceed three (3) days per fiscal year;
  - (iv) leave for personal illness and injury shall not exceed fifteen (15) days per fiscal year;
- (e) The first three days of any absence taken pursuant to Article 21, Illness/Injury Benefit, shall be counted as three (3) days of General Leave.
- (f) A new employee who is appointed subsequent to April 1 shall have her maximum leave entitlement for the first fiscal year pro-rated in accordance

with the number of months of service she will accumulate in the fiscal year of appointment.

- (g) Employees who exhaust all or part of their fifteen (15) days' entitlement in one fiscal year will have it reinstated on April 1 of the following fiscal year.

### **19.12 In-Service Conferences**

- (a) The Employer may grant permission to an employee to attend in-service conference(s), where in the opinion of the Employer, such a conference is relevant to the employee's respective field and where such attendance will not interfere with efficient operation. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (b) Where an in-service conference(s) is not held during the employee's scheduled hours of work, the employee shall be paid for all hours of attendance in accordance with Article 15 or Article 39, whichever is applicable.

### **19.13 Leave for Storms or Hazardous Conditions**

- (a) Time lost by an employee as a result of absence or lateness due to storm conditions or because of the condition of public streets and highways or because an employee finds it necessary to seek permission to leave prior to the end of the regular shift must be:
  - (i) made up by the employee at a time agreed upon between the employee and the employee's immediate supervisor; or
  - (ii) charged to the employee's accumulated vacation, accumulated holiday time, or accumulated overtime; or
  - (iii) otherwise deemed to be leave without pay.
- (b) Notwithstanding 19.13(a), reasonable lateness beyond the beginning of an employee's regular shift starting time shall not be subject to the provisions of Article 19.13(a)(i), (ii), or (iii), where the lateness is justified by the employee being able to establish to the satisfaction of the immediate management supervisor that every reasonable effort has been made by the employee to arrive at her work station at the scheduled time.
- (c) No discrimination is to be practised in the administration of this Article resulting from individual or personal situations, i.e. place of residence, family responsibilities, transportation problems, car pools, etc.



#### **19.14 Prepaid Leave**

Permanent employees will be entitled to take a leave of absence financed through a salary deferral arrangement in accordance with the provisions of the Prepaid Leave Plan set out in Article 44 of this Agreement.

#### **19.15 Leave of Absence for Political Office**

- (a) In this Article "Candidate" means a person who has been officially nominated as a candidate, or is declared to be a candidate by that person, or by others, with that person's consent, in a Federal or Provincial election.
- (b) An employee who is a candidate and wishes a leave of absence shall apply to the Employer and the leave of absence shall be granted.
- (c) Where the employee withdraws as a candidate and before the election, notifies the Employer of the employee's intention to return to work, the employee is entitled to return, to the position the employee left, two weeks after the notice has been given to the Employer unless the Employer and the employee both agree to the employee returning at another time.
- (d) An employee's leave of absence to be a candidate shall terminate on the day the successful candidate in the election is declared elected unless, on or before the day immediately after ordinary polling day, the employee notifies the Employer that the employee wishes her leave of absence to be extended for such number of days, not exceeding ninety (90), as the employee states in the notice and in such case the leave of absence shall terminate as stated in the notice.
- (e) An employee on leave of absence who is an unsuccessful candidate is entitled to return to the position which that employee left. If the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (f) The leave of absence of an employee who is a successful candidate shall be extended from ordinary polling day of the election of which the employee is elected until two weeks after:
  - (i) the employee resigns from the position to which the employee was elected where that resignation occurs before the next election;
  - (ii) where the Assembly is dissolved for the next election, the date the employee notifies the Employer that the employee does intend to be a candidate at that next election;

- (iii) the date nominations close for the next election if the Candidate has not been officially nominated as a Candidate; or
  - (iv) declaration day for the next election when it is official that the employee has not been re-elected, whichever is the latest.
- (g) Where an employee is elected for the second time, the leave of absence for the employee to be a Candidate terminates on the day the employee is declared elected for the second time and the employee ceases to be an employee for all purposes, including entitlement to all employee benefits, as of that day.
- (h) An employee who is not re-elected in the second election during the leave of absence may return to the position that employee left, or, where that position no longer exists the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (i) During the employee's leave of absence to be a Candidate, the employee shall not be paid but the employee, upon application to the Employer at any time before the leave of absence, is entitled to pension credit for service as if the employee were not on a leave of absence and to medical and health benefits, long term disability coverage and life insurance coverage, or any one or more of them, if the employee pays both the employee's and Employer's share of the cost.

#### **19.16 Military Leave**

- (a) Where operational requirements permit, an employee may be granted leave of absence with pay to a maximum of two (2) weeks for the purpose of taking military training or serving military duty.
- (b) An employee who is given leave of absence with pay pursuant to this Article shall have deducted from her salary an amount equal to the amount paid by the Department of National Defence to her as salary.
- (c) Where an employee uses vacation entitlement for the purpose of taking military training or serving military duty pursuant to this Article, she shall receive full salary from the Employer notwithstanding amounts paid to her by the Department of National Defence.

#### **19.17 Education Leave**

- (a) The Employer may enter into individual return of service agreements with employees in relation to educational programs which extend for a period

of three (3) calendar months or more and where participation in the program by the employee is voluntary. The Union shall be a party to all such agreements.

- (b) Where the Employer requires and authorizes in writing an employee to pursue an educational program which specifically relates to job requirements, a full or partial leave of absence with pay may be granted to the employee. Where leave is granted, the Employer will pay for tuition and books.
- (c)
  - (i) A leave of absence without pay may be granted to an employee for the purpose of pursuing an educational program.
  - (ii) The employee shall have the option of maintaining the benefit plans in which the employee participated prior to the commencement of the employee's education leave.
  - (iii) The Employer shall notify the employee of the option referred to in Article 19.17(c)(ii) and the date beyond which the option may no longer be exercised at least ten (10) days prior to the last day on which the option could be exercised to avoid an interruption of benefits.
  - (iv) Where the employee opts in writing to maintain the benefit plan referred to in Article 19.17(c)(ii), the employee shall enter into an arrangement with the Employer to pay the cost required to maintain the benefit plan, including the Employer's portion thereof, and the Employer shall process the documentation and payments as arranged.
  - (v) Where operational requirements permit, and on reasonable notice, leave of absence for education purposes shall not be unreasonably denied.
- (d) Where an educational program is necessary to maintain or enhance the working competencies of an employee, as required by the Continuing Competence Program of the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia, the Employer may grant a paid leave of absence for an employee to participate in the educational program. The Employer shall pay all costs associated with the program.
- (e) Upon completion of education leave pursuant to this Article, an employee shall be entitled to return to her former position. Where the position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.

### **19.18 Nurse Educators/ Nursing Instructors (Post RN Faculty)/Clinical Nurse Educators' Sabbatical Leave**

- (a) A Nurse Educator, Nursing Instructor (Post RN Faculty) or a Clinical Nurse Educator who has completed seven (7) years' service in that position or its predecessor may be granted Sabbatical Leave for a period of up to ten (10) months for the purpose of undertaking research or projects of a developmental nature which, in the opinion of the Employer, relate to the employee's field of teaching or will improve the employee's competence.
- (b) The employee shall make application in writing for Sabbatical Leave to the Employer no later than December 15, prior to the normal teaching year for which the leave is required. The Employer shall advise the employee of her decision no later than March 15 following the date of the employee's application.
- (c) An employee on Sabbatical Leave shall receive allowances in lieu of salary; such allowances shall be fifty percent (50%) of her basic salary, except as provided in (d).
- (d) Where an employee receives a salary, the Sabbatical Leave allowance may be reduced to the extent by which the combined amounts exceed the employee's basic salary. An employee's leave allowance may not be reduced in cases where a grant is for purposes other than the employee's personal use.
- (e) A return to service commitment will be required by the Employer of up to two (2) times the duration of the leave.
- (f) Leaves of absence for sabbatical purposes shall not be unreasonably denied.

### **19.19 Compassionate Care Leave**

An employee is entitled to an unpaid leave of absence to a maximum of eight (8) weeks to provide care or support to a family member in accordance with Section 60E of the *Labour Standards Code*.

## **ARTICLE 20 - GROUP INSURANCE**

### **20.01 Group Life and Medical Plans**

The Employer will continue to participate with employees in the provision of group life and medical plans as exist at the coming into force of this Agreement

unless amended by mutual consent. The Employer agrees to pay 65% of the total premium cost for all employees covered by the health and dental care plans attached hereto and forming part of this Agreement.

## **20.02 Long Term Disability Plans**

The terms of the long term disability plans, including those changes adopted from time to time, shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this collective agreement and shall be considered enforceable in the same way as all other provisions of this collective agreement. This provision applies to all of the plans in effect as of the signing date of this collective agreement, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

## **ARTICLE 21 - ILLNESS/INJURY BENEFIT**

### **21.01 Short-Term Illness Leave Benefit**

An employee who is unable to perform her duties because of illness or injury for a period of absence exceeding three (3) consecutive working days may be granted leave of absence at seventy-five per cent (75%) normal salary for those days in excess of the three (3) consecutive working days for each incidence of short-term illness for a maximum of one-hundred (100) days. The first three (3) days of such absence shall be deducted from the General Leave provided for in Article 19.11.

### **21.02 Joint Rehabilitation Advisory Committee**

Within sixty (60) days of the signing of this Agreement, the parties are to establish a Joint Rehabilitation Advisory Committee. This committee will support the Union and the Employer to:

- (a) achieve a safe and timely return to work for employees absent due to illness/injury;
- (b) develop a continuum of return to work for employees absent due to illness/injury; and,
- (c) advise on the process of rehabilitation.

### **21.03 Recurring Disabilities**

- (a) An employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and within thirty (30) consecutive work days again becomes unable to

work because of the same illness or injury will be considered to be within the original short-term leave period as defined in Article 21.01.

- (b) An employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and after working thirty (30) or more consecutive work days, again becomes unable to work because of the same illness or injury, will be considered to be in a new illness leave period and entitled to the full benefits of Article 21.01.
- (c) An employee who returns to work after a period of short-term illness leave and within thirty (30) consecutive work days subsequently becomes unable to work because of an illness or injury unrelated to the illness or injury that caused the previous absence will be considered to be in a new illness leave period and entitled to the full benefits of Article 21.01.
- (d) The provisions of Article 21.03(c) shall not apply to an employee who has returned to work for a trial period. In such a case, the employee will be considered to be within the original short-term leave period as defined in Article 21.01.
- (e) The Employer may require a trial period for any employee who returns to work after short term illness.

#### **21.04 Benefits Not Paid During Certain Periods**

General Leave and Short-term illness leave benefits will not be paid when an employee is:

- (a) receiving designated paid holiday pay;
- (b) on suspension without pay;
- (c) on a leave of absence without pay, other than leave of absence for union business pursuant to Article 13 or in the case of circumstances covered under Article 21.05.

#### **21.05 Benefits/Layoff**

- (a) When an employee is on short term illness and is deemed eligible for long term disability and is laid off, she shall be covered by both short term and long term benefits until termination of illness or disability entitlement. When such an employee has recovered or is capable of returning to work, she shall be covered by the provisions of Article 32.
- (b) During the period an employee is on layoff status, she shall not be entitled to benefits under Article 21 for an illness or disability which commenced

after the effective date of layoff. When such an employee is recalled and returns to work, she shall be eligible for participation in all benefits.

- (c) The continuation of benefits payable pursuant to Article 21.05 shall include any benefits payable in accordance with the Long Term Disability Plan.

### **21.06 Long-Term Disability**

Employees shall be covered for Long Term Disability in accordance with Article 20.02. The agreed upon terms and conditions of the Long Term Disability Plan shall be subject to negotiations between the parties in accordance with the provisions of the Collective Agreement. Employees covered by either the NSAHO or the Public Service LTD Plan will continue to participate in that plan unless otherwise mutually agreed between the Union and the Employer. Employees not covered by an LTD plan shall be covered by an LTD plan agreed to by the Employer and Union.

### **21.07 Deemed Salary**

For the purposes of calculating any salary-related benefits, including any salary-based contributions required by this Agreement, any employee on illness leave under Article 21 shall be deemed to be on 100% salary during such leave, or in accordance with Federal or Provincial Statutes.

### **21.08 Proof of Illness**

An employee may be required by the Employer to produce a certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner for any period of absence for which sick leave is claimed by an employee and if a certificate is not produced after such a request, the time absent from work will be deducted from the employee's pay. Where the Employer has reason to believe an employee is misusing sick leave privileges, the Employer may issue to the employee a standing directive that requires the employee to submit a medical certificate for any period of absence for which sick leave is claimed.

### **21.09 Sick Leave Application**

Application for sick leave for a period of more than three (3) consecutive working days, but not more than five (5) consecutive working days, shall be made in such manner as the Employer may from time to time prescribe and when the application for sick leave is for a period of more than five (5) consecutive working days, it shall be supported by a certificate from a medical practitioner.

### **21.10 Unearned Credits Upon Death**

When the employment of an employee who has been granted more sick leave with pay than she has earned is terminated by death, the employee is considered to have earned the amount of leave with pay granted to her.

### **21.11 Sick Leave Records**

An employee is entitled once each fiscal year to be informed, upon request, of the balance of her sick leave with pay credits.

### **21.12 Employer Approval**

An employee may be granted sick leave with pay when she is unable to perform her duties because of illness or injury provided that she satisfies the Employer of this condition in such manner and at such time as may be determined by the Employer, and provided she has the necessary sick leave credits.

### **21.13 Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Dependency**

Without detracting from the existing rights and obligations of the parties recognized in other provisions of this Agreement, the Employer and the Union agree to cooperate in encouraging employees afflicted with alcoholism, drug dependency or gambling dependency, to undergo a coordinated program directed to the objective of their rehabilitation.

### **21.14 Confidentiality of Health Information**

- (a) An employee shall not be required to provide her management supervisor specific information relative to an illness during a period of absence. However, such information shall be provided to Occupational Health Services, if required by the Employer. Occupational Health Services shall only release such necessary information to the employee's immediate management supervisor, such as the duration or expected duration of the illness, the employee's fitness to return to work, any limitations associated with the employee's fitness to work, and whether the illness is bona fide.
- (b) All employee health information shall be treated as confidential and access to such information shall only be given in accordance with this collective agreement or as authorized by law. The Employer shall store employee health information separately and access thereto shall be given only to the persons in Occupational Health Services who are directly involved in administering that information or to qualified health care professionals retained by Occupational Health Services.



- (c) The Employer shall provide access to health information held in its Occupational Health Department relating to an employee upon a request, in writing, from that employee. Where an employee requests health information about an issue that has become the subject of a grievance, the employee shall promptly provide the Employer with all health information obtained from the Employer's Occupational Health Department which is arguably relevant to the grievance. All information provided through this process shall be treated as confidential by the Employer and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of reaching a resolution of the grievance in question or, where applicable, adjudicating issues in dispute through the arbitration process.

### **21.15 Report of Injuries**

An employee who is injured on duty shall immediately report or cause to have reported any injury sustained in the performance of her duties to her immediate supervisor in such manner or on such form as the Employer may from time to time prescribe.

### **21.16 Employee Entitlement**

- (a) Except as provided for in Memorandum of Agreement #1, an employee whose illness or injury is one which is covered by the terms of the *Nova Scotia Workers' Compensation Act* is not entitled to receive any benefits pursuant to Article 19.11, General Leave, and/or Article 21.01, Short-term Illness Leave Benefit, for the illness or injury which is covered by the *Workers' Compensation Act*.
- (b) Where the employee has exhausted credits under Article 21.16 (including Grandfather Sick Leave Bank credits) an employee may receive a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) equivalent payment in accordance with the following:
  - (i) The payment will be an amount approximately equal to the payment that WCB may approve.
  - (ii) The employee agrees that if WCB benefits are approved, such benefits will be reimbursed directly to CDHA.
  - (iii) The employee agrees that if WCB is not approved the employee will be required to file a claim for STI benefits under the provisions of Article 21.

- (iv) The employee agrees that any period of STI that may be approved subsequent to the denial of WCB benefits will be reconciled against WCB equivalent for that same period.
- (v) The employee agrees that any period for which an employee is paid WCB equivalent payment for which neither WCB or STI is granted, such payment will be fully recovered from the employee. A signed promissory note indicating the agreement to re-pay these funds will be required prior to receiving the WCB equivalent payment.
- (c) WCB equivalent payment will not exceed one hundred days.
- (d) WCB equivalent payment will commence for any pay period for which no pay or WCB benefit is received.
- (e) WCB equivalent payment will cease in the event that either STI or WCB is approved, if STI and WCB are declined or one hundred days from date of absence, whichever is earliest.

#### **21.17 Recurring Disability**

An employee who ceases to be an employee and suffers a recurrence of a disability resulting from an injury on the job while in the employ of the Employer will receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

#### **21.18 Alternate Medical Practitioner**

For the purpose of this Article,

- (a) the Employer may require that the employee be examined by an alternate medical practitioner. If the employee is dissatisfied with the alternate medical practitioner selected by the Employer, the employee shall advise the Employer accordingly, in which case the Employer will provide the employee with the names of three (3) practitioners and the employee will select one (1) of the three.
- (b) Where the Employer refers an employee to an alternative medical practitioner pursuant to this Article, and where medical fees in excess of those covered by Medical Services Insurance are incurred by the employee, the Employer shall pay the cost of these fees.

## **21.19 Ongoing Therapy**

An employee who is participating in a scheduled ongoing series of treatments or therapy shall be eligible to accumulate time off for such purposes in order that it may be credited under the provisions of Short Term Illness Leave. In order to be deemed as ongoing treatment or therapy, the time between successive sessions shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

## **ARTICLE 22 - EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW & EMPLOYEE FILES**

### **22.01 Employee Performance Review**

- (a) The Employer shall endeavour to conduct a formal written review of an employee's performance annually.
- (b) When a formal review of an employee's performance is made, the employee concerned shall be given an opportunity to discuss, sign and make written comments on the review form in question and the employee is to receive a signed copy to indicate that its contents have been read. An employee shall be entitled to a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours to review the performance review prior to providing any response to the Employer, verbally or in writing, with respect to the evaluation.
- (c) Peer Performance Review is voluntary in the sense that the employee to be evaluated may decline to participate in the peer performance review. It is also voluntary in the sense that an employee being asked to participate in the review by commenting on the employee being evaluated, may decline.

### **22.02 Record of Disciplinary Action**

- (a) The Employer agrees not to introduce as evidence in a hearing relating to disciplinary action, any document from the file of an employee, the existence of which the employee was not aware at the time of filing.
- (b) Subject to paragraph (c) below, notice of a disciplinary action which may have been placed on the personal file of an employee shall be destroyed after four (4) years have elapsed since the disciplinary action was taken provided that no further disciplinary action has been recorded during this period.
- (c) An employee who has been subject to disciplinary action other than suspension may, after three (3) years of continuous service from the date

the disciplinary measure was invoked, request in writing that the personnel file be cleared of any record of disciplinary action. Such request shall be granted provided the employee's file does not contain any further record of disciplinary action during the three (3) year period, of which the employee is aware. The Employer shall confirm in writing to the employee that such has been effected.

### **22.03 Notice of Performance Improvement Requirements**

The Employer will notify an employee in writing where, during the period between the formal performance evaluation processes, the Employer has observed that certain aspects of an employee's performance require improvement.

### **22.04 Employee Access to Personnel File**

Employees shall have access to their personnel files upon reasonable notice. Employees or persons authorized by them in writing, shall be entitled to obtain copies of any material on their personnel file upon reasonable notice.

## **ARTICLE 23 - DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE**

### **23.01 Just Cause**

No employee who has completed her probationary period shall be disciplined, suspended without pay or discharged except for just and sufficient cause.

### **23.02 Notification**

Where an employee is disciplined, suspended without pay or discharged, the Employer shall, within ten (10) days of the discipline, suspension or discharge notify the employee and the Union in writing by registered mail or personal service stating the reason for the discipline, suspension or discharge.

### **23.03 Grievances**

Where an employee alleges that she has been discharged in violation of Article 23.01, she may within ten (10) days of the date on which she was notified in writing or within twenty (20) days of the date of her discharge, whichever is later, invoke the grievance procedure including provisions for arbitration contained in Article 26, and for the purpose of a grievance, alleging violation of Article 23.01 she may lodge her grievance at the final level of the grievance procedure.

## **23.04 Union Representation**

When an employee is required to attend a meeting where formal discipline, other than a verbal warning, will be imposed, she may be accompanied by a Union representative provided that this does not result in any undue delay of appropriate action being taken.

## **ARTICLE 24 - NOTICE OF RESIGNATION**

### **24.01 Notice of Resignation**

If an employee desires to terminate her employment, she shall endeavour to forward a letter of resignation to the Employer four (4) weeks prior to the effective date of termination, and in any event, not less than two (2) weeks prior to the effective date of termination, provided however the Employer may accept a shorter period of notice.

### **24.02 Absence Without Permission**

- (a) An employee who is absent from her employment without permission for ten (10) consecutive days, shall be deemed to have resigned her position effective the first day of her absence.
- (b) The employee may be reinstated if she establishes to the satisfaction of the employer, that her absence arose from a cause beyond her control and it was not possible for the employee to notify the Employer of the reason for her absence.

### **24.03 Failure to Give Notice**

- (a) An employee who fails to give notice required by Article 24.01, or who is deemed to have resigned by virtue of 24.02, shall be struck from the payroll effective the date she absents herself without leave, and shall have deducted from monies owed her by the Employer from all sources, including any vacation pay, a sum equivalent to the salary payable to her for the period of notice which she failed to work.
- (b) If the employee is reinstated in accordance with 24.02(b), then any deductions made pursuant to 24.03(a) shall be reinstated.

### **24.04 Acknowledgment of Letters of Resignation**

Receipt of letters of resignation shall be acknowledged by the Employer in writing.

## **24.05 Withdrawal of Resignation**

An employee who has terminated her employment through resignation, may withdraw her resignation within three (3) days of the time it was submitted to the Employer.

## **ARTICLE 25 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **25.01 Grievances**

- (a) An employee(s) who feels that she has been treated unjustly or considers herself aggrieved by any action or lack of action by the Employer shall first discuss the matter with her immediate management supervisor no later than twenty-five (25) days after the date on which she became aware of the action or circumstance. The employee(s) may have a Steward present if so desired.
- (b) The supervisor shall answer the dispute within two (2) days of the discussions unless the Union agrees to extend this time limit.
- (c) When any dispute cannot be settled by the foregoing informal procedure, it shall be deemed to be a "grievance" and the supervisor shall be notified accordingly.
- (d) In each of the following steps of the grievance procedure, a meeting or meetings with the Union representative named in the grievance and the Employer's designated representative, shall be arranged at the earliest mutually agreeable time, and not later than the time limit provided for in the applicable step of the grievance procedure, if requested by either party. Where a meeting or meetings are not requested by either party, the Employer shall provide a response to the grievance, as outlined in the grievance procedure below.

### **25.02 Union Approval**

Where the grievance relates to the interpretation or application of this Collective Agreement, the employee is not entitled to present the grievance unless she has the approval in writing of the Union or is represented by the Union.

### **25.03 (a) Grievance Procedure**

The following grievance procedure shall apply:

### Step 1

If the employee(s) or the Union is not satisfied with the decision of the immediate management supervisor, the employee(s) may within ten (10) days of having received the supervisor's answer, present the grievance in writing to the supervisor. Failing satisfactory settlement within five (5) days from the date on which the grievance was submitted at Step 1 of the grievance procedure, the grievance may be submitted to Step 2.

### Step 2

Within five (5) days from the expiration of the five (5) day period referred to in Step 1, the grievance may be submitted in writing either by personal service or by registered or certified mail to Employer's designate at Step 2 of the grievance procedure. Failing satisfactory settlement within ten (10) days from the date on which the grievance was received at Step 2, the grievance may be submitted to Step 3.

### Step 3

Within five (5) days from the expiration of the ten (10) day period referred to in Step 2, the grievance may be submitted in writing to the Employer's Vice-President for the area in which the grievance arose accompanied by any proposed settlement of the grievance and any replies at Step 1 and Step 2. The Vice-President for the area in which the grievance arose shall reply to the grievance in writing within fifteen (15) days from the date the grievance was submitted to Step 3.

## **(b) Grievance Mediation**

Where the parties have been unsuccessful in resolving the matter through the grievance procedure, the parties may jointly submit the matter to the Department of Environment and Labour's Grievance Mediation Program or such other mediation option as is agreeable to the parties. It is understood that grievance mediation is a voluntary program and that arbitration remains an option should the grievance remain unresolved after grievance mediation.

## **(c) Job Posting Grievances**

For the purposes of job posting grievances, the employer's designate(s) for the grievance process in accordance with Articles 25.01 and 25.03 shall be the designate(s) responsible for the portfolio where the job posting originated.

#### **25.04 Union Referral to Arbitration**

Failing satisfactory settlement at Step 3 or upon expiration of the fifteen (15) day period referred to in Step 3 of the grievance procedure, the Union may refer the grievance to arbitration under Article 26.

#### **25.05 Union Representation**

In any case where the employee(s) presents her grievance in person or in any case in which a hearing is held on a grievance at any level, the employee(s) shall be accompanied by a representative of the Union.

#### **25.06 Time Limits**

In determining the time in which any step under the foregoing proceedings or under Article 26 is to be taken, Saturdays, Sundays, and recognized holidays shall be excluded.

#### **25.07 Amending of Time Limits**

The time limits set out in the grievance procedure or under Article 26 may be extended by mutual consent of the parties to this Agreement.

#### **25.08 Policy Grievance**

Where either party disputes the general application or interpretation of this Agreement, the dispute may be discussed with the Employer's Vice-President responsible for Human Resources, or such person designated by that individual, or the Union, as the case may be. Where no satisfactory agreement is reached, the dispute may be resolved pursuant to Article 26. This section shall not apply in cases of individual grievances.

#### **25.09 Sexual Harassment and Personal Harassment**

Cases of sexual harassment and personal harassment as defined by the protected characteristics set out in Article 2.03 shall be considered as discrimination and a matter for grievance and arbitration. Such grievances may be filed by the aggrieved employee and/or the Union at Step 3 of the grievance procedure and shall be treated in strict confidence by both the Union and the Employer.



## **ARTICLE 26 - ARBITRATION**

### **26.01 Notification**

Either of the parties may, after exhausting the grievance procedure in Article 25, notify the other party within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the reply at Step 3 or such reply being due, of its desire to refer the grievance to arbitration pursuant to the provisions of the *Trade Union Act* and this Agreement.

### **26.02 Referral to Arbitration**

Such notification shall specify the party's choice of whether it wishes to utilize the regular arbitration procedure or the expedited arbitration procedure, as provided for within this Article. In the event that a grievance is submitted to the regular arbitration process, it shall be heard by a single arbitrator, unless either party requests that it be heard by a three-member arbitration board.

### **26.03 Relief Against Time Limits**

The time limit for the initial submission of the written grievance under Article 25 is mandatory. Subsequent time limits are directory and the arbitration board or single arbitrator shall be able to overrule a preliminary objection that the time limits are missed from Step 2 onward, providing that the board or arbitrator is satisfied that the grievance has been handled with reasonable dispatch and the Employer's position is not significantly prejudiced by the delay.

### **26.04 Regular Arbitration Procedure**

#### **(a) Single Arbitrator**

If the grievance is to be heard by a single arbitrator and the Union and the Employer fail to agree upon the appointment of the arbitrator within five (5) days of notice of arbitration in accordance with Article 26.01, the appointment shall be made by the Minister of Environment and Labour for Nova Scotia.

#### **(b) Arbitration Board**

If the grievance is to be heard by a three-member arbitration board, the Union and the Employer shall each appoint a member of the arbitration board within five (5) days of notice of arbitration in accordance with Article 26.01. Should the appointed members fail to agree upon the appointment of a chair within five (5) days of their appointment, the Minister of Environment and Labour for Nova Scotia shall appoint the chair.

**(c) Arbitration Procedure**

The arbitration board or single arbitrator shall render a decision in as short a time as possible. With due regard to the wishes of the parties, the decision shall, in the normal course be handed down within a maximum of fourteen (14) days from the appointment of the chair or single arbitrator.

**26.05 Expedited Arbitration Procedure**

**(a) Eligibility For Utilization**

By mutual agreement, the parties may agree to have any grievance referred to expedited arbitration in accordance with the procedures set out herein.

**(b) Rules of Procedure**

By referring any specific grievance to be dealt with in the expedited arbitration procedure it is understood and agreed that the matter is to be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of Procedure attached to this Agreement as Appendix 1.

**26.06 Arbitration Award**

All arbitration awards shall be final and binding as provided by Section 42 of the *Trade Union Act*. An arbitrator may not alter, modify or amend any part of this Agreement, but shall have the power to modify or set aside any unjust penalty of discharge, suspension or discipline imposed by the Employer on an employee.

**26.07 Arbitration Expenses**

Each party shall pay the fees and expenses of its appointed member and one-half the fees and expenses of the chair or single arbitrator.

**ARTICLE 27 - JOINT CONSULTATION**

**27.01 Joint Consultation**

The parties acknowledge the mutual benefits to be derived from joint consultation and are prepared to enter discussions on matters of common interest and mutual concern.

## **27.02 Union/Management Quality Care Committee**

### **(a) Quality Nursing Care**

The Union, the employees and the Employer agree that quality nursing care is enhanced by excellence in nursing practice, and may be affected by, but not limited to, patient acuity, increased workloads and fluctuating staffing.

### **(b) Quality Nursing Care Concerns**

Within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Agreement, the parties agree to establish a union/management quality care committee (the "Committee"). The Committee shall consist of six (6) representatives of the Union and six (6) representatives of the Employer.

### **(c) Chairperson**

A representative of the Union and the Employer shall alternate as Chair.

### **(d) Complaint Process**

- (1) An employee who believes she cannot provide quality nursing care shall first discuss the situation with the Nurse Manager or designate at the time the situation arises.
- (2) The employee's concerns shall be assessed by the Nurse Manager or designate.
- (3) The Nurse Manager or designate shall advise the employee of her decision during that shift.
- (4) If the employee is dissatisfied with the decision of the Nurse Manager or designate, she may submit a Quality Care Situation Report to the Nurse Manager. Copies of the Quality Care Situation Report shall be forwarded to the Director of Nursing, the Risk Management Department, the Vice President of Nursing and the Union. The Nurse Manager shall provide a written response to the employee no later than three (3) days from the time she receives the Quality Care Situation Report. Copies of the Nurse Manager's report shall be forwarded to the aforementioned.
- (5) Notwithstanding (d), an employee may submit the Quality Care Situation Report directly to the Director of Nursing. In such case the Director shall ensure that copies are forwarded to the Nurse

Manager, the Risk Management Department, the Vice President of Nursing and the Union.

- (6) If the employee is dissatisfied with the response of the Nurse Manager, she may refer the report to the Director of Nursing, who shall within five (5) days review and investigate the concerns and submit a written report. The report shall include her evaluation and recommendations and will be sent to the employee, the Nurse Manager, the Risk Management Department, the Vice President of Nursing and the Union.
- (7) Any recipient of the report who is dissatisfied with the report may, within ten (10) days of receipt of the report, request the Committee meet to discuss the situation. The Committee shall meet as soon as possible and normally within ten (10) days unless mutually agreed otherwise. Within five (5) days the Committee shall provide a written report and recommendations to the employee, the Nurse Manager, the Vice President of Nursing, the Director of Nursing, Risk Management and the Union.
- (8) The Vice President of Nursing will respond in writing to the recommendations of the Committee within ten (10) days.
- (9) If the issue is not resolved, then the matter shall be referred to the Quality Council who will consider the matter.

**(e) Time Spent by Committee Members**

Time spent by Committee Members shall be considered time worked.

**(f) Collective Agreement Issues**

It is not the function of this Committee to interpret, alter or amend this Agreement.

Any issues which involve an interpretation of this Agreement shall be referred to the parties for consideration.

**27.03 Benefits Committee**

The parties agree to establish a committee consisting of not more than two (2) representatives of each of the bargaining units and one (1) union representative from Head Office and a number of management representatives, to be determined by the Employer, to consider amendments to the existing benefit plans (Group Life, Medical, Dental and Retirement Benefits).

## ARTICLE 28 – TRAVEL

### 28.01 Employer's Travel Policy

- (a) The Employer's travel policy, dated September 2008, shall apply to all employees covered by this Agreement.
- (b) The rates in the Employer's travel policy, including the rates specified in this Article, may be amended upwards from time to time.

### 28.02 Kilometrage Allowance

An employee who is authorized to use a privately owned automobile on the Employer's business shall be paid a kilometrage allowance of \$0.4015 cents per kilometer.

The Employer will adopt the civil service kilometrage rate effective the date of a tentative agreement being reached between the parties, provided that such agreement is subsequently ratified. Thereafter adjustments will be made in accordance with, and on the same effective dates as adjustments to the civil service rate.

### 28.03 Other Expenses

- (a) Reasonable expenses incurred by employees for approved business or education travel for the Employer shall be reimbursed by the Employer to the following maximums:

Breakfast	\$6.00
Lunch	\$12.00
Dinner	\$20.00
Incidentals	\$5.00

With the express approval of management, an employee may, upon the provision of receipts, be reimbursed for actual cost of meal expenses.

Reimbursement for Accommodations shall not be less than the actual cost to the employee.

- (b) Article 28.03(a) does not include meal, accommodations, and other routine employee expenses normally incurred in the course of the employee's work day. In the event the employee's work requires her to be beyond a sixteen (16) kilometer radius of the Employer's premises during

the employee's recognized lunch meal period, the employee is entitled to the \$12.00 lunch allowance pursuant to Article 28.03(a).

- (c) Reasonable expenses incurred by employees on the business of the Employer shall be reimbursed by the Employer, provided approval for the expenditure has been obtained.

#### **28.04 Transportation To/From Work**

An employee who is required to travel to and from work between the hours of 2400 and 0600 shall be entitled to be reimbursed for actual transportation expenses incurred to a maximum of \$10.00 each way per shift or \$0.4015 per kilometre to the above-mentioned maximum.

### **ARTICLE 29 - RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE**

#### **29.01 Retirement Allowance**

- (a) An employee who resigns or who retires from employment and is immediately eligible for and commences receipt of pension under the CDHA pension plan, immediately following the resignation / retirement shall be granted a Retirement Allowance equal to one (1) week's pay for each year of service to a maximum of twenty-six (26) years. The Retirement Allowance will include a prorated payment for a partial year of service.

- (b) The amount of Retirement Allowance provided under (a) shall be calculated by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Annual Salary}}{52} = 1 \text{ week}$$

- (c) The entitlement of an employee to a Retirement Allowance shall be based on an employee's total service as defined in Article 1.02. A person can only receive a retirement allowance once, based on the same year(s) of service.
- (d) In addition to the months of service upon which an employee's Retirement Allowance entitlement is calculated pursuant to (c), the months of prior War Service purchased by an employee in accordance with the amendment to Section 11 of the Public Service Superannuation Act, shall be included as months of service for the purpose of Retirement Allowance entitlement calculation.

- (e) Where an employee dies and she would have been entitled to receive a Retirement Allowance if she had retired immediately before her death, the Retirement Allowance to which she would have been entitled shall be paid:
  - (i) to her beneficiary under the Group Life Insurance Policy; or
  - (ii) to her estate if there is no such beneficiary.
- (f) Where the person to whom a Retirement Allowance is payable has not attained the age of nineteen (19) years or, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, is not capable of managing her affairs by reason of infirmity, illness or other cause, the Retirement Allowance shall be paid to such person as the Governor in Council directs as trustee for the benefit of the person entitled to receive the Retirement Allowance.
- (g) The salary which shall be used to calculate the amount of the Retirement Allowance in accordance with this Article shall be the highest salary the employee was paid during her employment with the Employer.

#### **29.02 Retiree Benefits**

For all retired employees, the Employer agrees to pay sixty-five percent (65%) of the total premium cost of the medical plan provided for employees, and fifty percent (50%) of the total premium cost of life insurance provided for employees, effective November 1, 2000.

### **ARTICLE 30 - THE PENSIONS**

#### **30.01 Coverage of Employees**

- (a) Employees who are presently covered by a pension plan shall continue to be covered by the terms of that plan, subject to any mutual agreement to the contrary.
- (b) Employees not presently covered by a pension plan shall be brought under the terms of the AHO Plan unless altered by mutual agreement of the parties.

## ARTICLE 31 - HEALTH AND SAFETY

### 31.01 Health and Safety Provisions

The Employer shall continue to make and enforce provisions for the occupational health, safety, and security of employees. The Employer will respond to suggestions on the subject from the Union and the parties undertake to consult with a view to adopting and expeditiously carrying out reasonable procedures and techniques designed or intended to prevent or reduce the risk of employment injury and employment-related chronic illness.

### 31.02 Occupational Health and Safety Act

The Employer, the Union, and the employees recognize they are bound by the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, S.N.S. 1996, c.7, and appropriate federal acts and regulations. Any breach of these obligations may be grieved pursuant to this Agreement.

### 31.03 Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

- (a) The Employer shall establish and maintain one (or more) Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee as provided for in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- (b) The committee(s) shall consist of such number of persons as may be agreed to by the Employer and the Union.
- (c) At least one-half of the members of the committee shall be employees at the workplace who are not connected with the management of the workplace and the Employer may choose up to one-half of the members of the committee if the Employer wishes to do so.
- (d) The employees on the committee are to be determined by the employees they represent or designated by the Union that represents the employees.
- (e) The committee shall meet at least once each month unless:
  - (i) a different frequency is prescribed by the regulation; or
  - (ii) the committee alters the required frequency of meetings in its rules of procedure.
- (f) Where the committee alters the required frequency of meetings by its rules of procedure and the Director of Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour (hereinafter in this Article referred to as the "Director") is not satisfied that the frequency of



meetings is sufficient to enable the committee to effectively perform its functions, the frequency of the meetings shall be as determined by the Director.

- (g) An employee who is a member of the committee is entitled to such time off from work as is necessary to attend meetings of the committee, to take any training prescribed by the regulations and to carry out the employee's functions as a member of the committee, and such time off is deemed to be work time for which the employee shall be paid by the Employer at the applicable rate.
- (h) The committee shall establish its own rules of procedure and shall adhere to the applicable regulations.
- (i) Unless the committee determines another arrangement for chairing the committee in its rules of procedure, two of the members of the committee shall co-chair the committee, one of whom shall be selected by the members who represent employees and the other of whom shall be selected by the other members.
- (j) The rules of procedure established pursuant to Article 31.03(h) shall include an annual determination of the method of selecting the person or persons who shall:
  - (i) chair the committee; and
  - (ii) hold the position of the chair for the coming year.
- (k) Where agreement is not reached on:
  - (i) the size of the committee;
  - (ii) the designation of employees to be members; or
  - (iii) rules of procedure;the Director shall determine the matter.
- (l) It is the function of the committee to involve the Employer and employees together in occupational health and safety in the workplace, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes:
  - (i) the cooperative identification of hazards to health and safety and effective systems to respond to the hazards;
  - (ii) the cooperative auditing of compliance with health and safety requirements in the workplace;

- (iii) receipt, investigation, and prompt disposition of matters and complaints with respect to workplace health and safety;
- (iv) participation in inspections, inquiries and investigations concerning the occupational health and safety of the employees and, in particular, participation in an inspection referred to in Section 50 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*;
- (v) advising on individual protective devices, equipment, and clothing that, complying with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the Regulations, are best adapted to the needs of the employees;
- (vi) advising the Employer regarding a policy or program required pursuant to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* or the Regulations and making recommendations to the Employer, the employees, and any person for the improvement of the health and safety of persons at the workplace;
- (vii) maintaining records and minutes of committee meetings in a form and manner approved by the Director and providing committee members with a copy of these minutes, and providing an officer with a copy of these records or minutes on request. Both chairpersons will sign the minutes unless there is a dispute over their contents, in which case the dissenting co-chairperson will indicate in writing the source of this disagreement; and
- (viii) performing any other duties assigned to it:
  - (1) by the Director;
  - (2) by agreement between the Employer and the employees or the Union; or
  - (3) as are established by the Regulations of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

#### **31.04 Right to Refuse Work and Consequences of Refusal**

- (a) Any employee may refuse to do any act at the employee's place of employment where the employee has reasonable grounds for believing that the act is likely to endanger the employee's health or safety or the health or safety of any other person until:
  - (i) the Employer has taken remedial action to the satisfaction of the employee;

- (ii) the committee has investigated the matter and unanimously advised the employee to return to work; or
  - (iii) an officer appointed under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* has investigated the matter and has advised the employee to return to work.
- (b) Where an employee exercises the employee's right to refuse to work pursuant to Article 31.04(a), the employee shall:
  - (i) immediately report it to the supervisor;
  - (ii) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction, report it to the committee or the representative, if any; and
  - (iii) where the matter is not remedied to the employee's satisfaction after the employee has reported pursuant to Article 31.04(b)(i) and (ii), report it to the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Labour.
- (c) At the option of the employee, the employee who refuses to do any act pursuant to Article 31.04(a) may accompany an Occupational Health and Safety officer or the committee or representative, if any, on a physical inspection of the workplace, or part thereof, being carried out for the purpose of ensuring others understand the reasons for the refusal.
- (d) Notwithstanding Subsection 50 (8) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, an employee who accompanies an Occupational Health and Safety officer of the Department of Labour, the committee or a representative, as provided in Article 31.04(c), shall be compensated in accordance with Article 31.04(g), but the compensation shall not exceed that which would otherwise have been payable for the employee's regular or scheduled working hours.
- (e) Subject to this Agreement, and Article 31.04(c), where an employee refuses to do work pursuant to Article 31.04(a), the Employer may reassign the employee to other work and the employee shall accept the reassignment until the employee is able to return to work pursuant to Article 31.04(a).
- (f) Where an employee is reassigned to other work pursuant to Article 31.04 (e), the Employer shall pay the employee the same wages or salary and grant the employee the same benefits as would have been received had the employee continued in the employee's normal work.

- (g) Where an employee has refused to work pursuant to Article 31.04(a) and has not been reassigned to other work pursuant to Article 31.04 (e), the Employer shall, until Article 31.04 (a)(i), (ii) or (iii) is met, pay the employee the same wages or salary and grant the employee the same benefits as would have been received had the employee continued to work.
- (h) A reassignment of work pursuant to Article 31.04(e) is not a discriminatory act pursuant to Section 45 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- (i) An employee may not, pursuant to this Article, refuse to use or operate a machine or thing or to work in a place where:
  - (i) the refusal puts the life, health or safety of another person directly in danger; or
  - (ii) the danger referred to in Article 31.04 (a) is inherent in the work of the employee.

### **31.05 Restriction on Assignment of Work Where Refusal**

Where an employee exercises the employee's right to refuse to work pursuant to Article 31.04(a), no employee shall be assigned to do that work until the matter has been dealt with under that Article, unless the employee to be so assigned has been advised of:

- (a) the refusal by another employee;
- (b) the reason for the refusal; and
- (c) the employee's rights pursuant to Article 31.04.

### **31.06 First-Aid Kits**

The Employer shall provide an area, equipped with a first-aid kit, for the use of employees taken ill during working hours.

### **31.07 Protection of Pregnant Employees**

A pregnant employee who works with machinery or equipment which may pose a threat to the health of either the pregnant employee or her unborn child, may request a job reassignment for that period by forwarding a written request to the employee's immediate management supervisor along with a satisfactory certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner justifying the need for such reassignment. Upon receipt of the request, the Employer, where possible, will reassign the pregnant employee to an alternate position and/or classification or to alternate duties with the Employer.

### **31.08 Uniforms and Protective Clothing**

Where conditions of employment are such that an employee's clothing may be unreasonably soiled, or where the employee's clothing may be damaged, the Employer shall provide protective clothing in the form of smocks or coveralls and shall pay for their laundering.

## **ARTICLE 32 - JOB SECURITY**

### **32.01 Joint Committee on Technological Change**

- (a) Within sixty (60) days of the signing of this Agreement, the parties are to establish a Joint Committee on Technological Change of equal representation of the Union and the Employer for the purpose of maintaining continuing cooperation and consultation on technological change and job security. The committee shall appoint additional representatives as required.
- (b) The Joint Committee on Technological Change shall consult as required to discuss matters of concern between the parties related to technological change and circumstances identified in Article 32.07, and 32.13. The parties may agree to consult by telephone.
- (c) The Joint Committee on Technological Change shall be responsible for:
  - (1) defining problems;
  - (2) developing viable solutions to such problems;
  - (3) recommending the proposed solution to the employer.
- (d) The Employer will provide the Joint Committee on Technological Change with as much notice as reasonably possible of expected redundancies, relocations, re-organizational plans, technological change and proposed contracting out of work.
- (e) It is understood that the Joint Committee on Technological Change provided for herein shall be a single committee to cover all bargaining units represented by the Union.

### **32.02 Definition**

For the purposes of this Article, "technological change" means the introduction of equipment or material by the Employer into its operations, which is likely to affect the job security of employees.

### **32.03 Introduction**

The Employer agrees that it will endeavour to introduce technological change in a manner which, as much as is practicable, will minimize the disruptive effects on employees and services to the public.

### **32.04 Notice to Union**

The Employer will give the Union written notice of technological change at least three (3) months prior to the date the change is to be effected. During this period the parties will meet to discuss the steps to be taken to assist employees who could be affected.

### **32.05 Training and Retraining**

- (a) Where retraining of employees is necessary, it shall be provided during normal working hours where possible.
- (b) Where the Employer determines a need exists, and where operational requirements permit, the Employer shall continue to make available appropriate training programs to enable employees to perform present and future duties more effectively.
- (c) The duration of the training/retraining under this Article shall be determined by the Employer and does not include courses or programs offered by a party other than the Employer.

### **32.06 Application**

For the purposes of this Article "employee" means a permanent employee, or a casual employee who, pursuant to Article 38.04 (m), has the rights of a permanent employee.

### **32.07 Union Consultation**

Where positions are to be declared redundant because of technological change, shortage of work or funds or because of discontinuance of work or the reorganization of work within a classification, the Employer will advise and consult with the Union as soon as reasonably possible after the change appears probable, with a view to minimizing the adverse effects of the decision to declare redundancies.

### **32.08 Transition Support Program**

- (a) All references within this Article to the Transition Support Program relate to the Program outlined in Article 33. The availability of any payment or other entitlement under that document, and any obligation on the part of the Employer to provide such, pursuant to this Article or any other part of the collective agreement, shall only exist during the effective term of the Program, as expressly specified in that document. This limitation exists notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or any other part of the collective agreement.
- (b) The term of the Transition Support Program may be extended by mutual agreement between the parties.

### **32.09 Employee Placement Rights**

- (a) Subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or where the Employer establishes that special skills or qualifications are required according to objective tests or standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned, an employee whose position has become redundant, shall, subject to Article 35.02(e), have the right to be placed in a vacancy in the following manner and sequence:
  - (1) a position in the employee's same position classification/classification grouping;
  - (2) if a vacancy is not available under (1) above, then any bargaining unit position for which the employee is qualified.

At each of the foregoing steps, all applicable vacancies shall be identified and the employee shall be assigned to the position of her choice, subject to consideration of the provisions herein. If there is more than one employee affected, their order of preference shall be determined by their order of seniority.

- (b) An employee whose position is redundant or who is in receipt of layoff notice and who has not received a payment pursuant to the Transition Support Program ("TSP payment") must accept a placement in accordance with Article 32 or resign without severance.
- (c) An employee will have a maximum of two (2) full days to exercise her placement rights in this step of the placement process.
- (d) Where an employee accepts a position in a classification, the maximum salary of which is less than the maximum salary of the employee's current

classification, the employee shall be granted salary protection in accordance with Item 1.5 of Article 33.

- (e) Where a vacancy exists which has a higher maximum salary than that of an employee's classification, the position shall be posted as agreed between the parties provided that the resulting vacancy shall then be dealt with in accordance with this agreement.

### **32.10 Volunteers**

- (a) When the Employer determines after placement pursuant to Article 32.09, there are still redundancies, the Employer shall ask for volunteers from that classification/classification grouping who wish to be offered a TSP payment according to Article 33.
- (b) If there are more volunteers than redundancies, then the most senior volunteers shall be offered the TSP payment.

### **32.11 Insufficient Volunteers**

If there are insufficient volunteers pursuant to Article 32.10, the Employer shall identify remaining redundant employees and these employees shall have placement rights pursuant to Article 32.09 or, where available, they shall be entitled to receive a TSP payment.

### **32.12 Layoff Notice**

- (a) If there are remaining redundant employees after Article 32.10 and 32.11, the Employer shall give layoff notice to the most junior employee(s) pursuant to Article 32.14 in the classification/classification grouping from which the Employer requested volunteers for the Transition Support Program.
- (b) The employees in receipt of layoff notice shall have the rights of an employee in receipt of layoff notice pursuant to this Article.

### **32.13 Layoff**

An employee(s) may be laid off because of technological change, shortage of work or funds, or because of the discontinuance of work or the reorganization of work.



### **32.14 Layoff Procedure**

Where the layoff of a bargaining unit member is necessary, and provided ability, skill, and qualifications are sufficient to perform the job, employees shall be laid off in reverse order of seniority.

### **32.15 Notice of Layoff**

- (a) Forty (40) days notice of layoff shall be sent by the Employer to the Union and the employee(s) who is/are to be laid off, except where a greater period of notice is provided for under (b) below.
- (b) When the Employer lays off ten (10) or more persons within any period of four (4) weeks or less, notice of layoff shall be sent by the Employer to the Union and employees who are to be laid off, in accordance with the following:
  - (i) eight (8) weeks if ten (10) or more persons and fewer than one hundred (100) persons are to be laid off;
  - (ii) twelve (12) weeks if one hundred (100) or more persons and fewer than three hundred (300) are to be laid off;
  - (iii) sixteen (16) weeks if three hundred (300) or more persons are to be laid off;
- (c) Notices pursuant to this Section shall include the effective date of layoff and the reasons therefor.
- (d) An employee in receipt of layoff notice shall be entitled to exercise any of the following options:
  - (i) to exercise placement/displacement rights in accordance with the procedure set out in this Article;
  - (ii) to accept layoff and be entitled to recall in accordance with Article 32.18;
  - (iii) to accept the Transition Support Program.

An employee who intends to exercise placement/displacement rights pursuant to (d) (i) above will indicate such intent to the Employer within two (2) full days following receipt of the layoff notice. If the employee does not indicate such intent within this period, she will be deemed to have opted to accept layoff in accordance with (d) (ii) above.

### **32.16 Pay in Lieu of Notice**

Where the notice required by Article 32.15 is not given, the employee shall receive pay, in lieu thereof, for the amount of notice to which the employee is entitled.

### **32.17 Displacement Procedure**

- (a) Subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or where the Employer establishes that special skills or qualifications are required, according to objective tests or standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned, an employee in receipt of layoff notice has, subject to Article 35.02(e), the right to displace another employee. The employee to be displaced shall be an employee with lesser seniority who:
  - (i) is the least senior employee in the displacing employee's classification/classification grouping; or
  - (ii) where no such junior employee exists, the least senior employee in any classification/classification grouping in the displacing employee's bargaining unit.
- (b) An employee who chooses to exercise rights in accordance with Article 32.17 may elect at any step, beginning with Article 32.15, to accept layoff and be placed on the recall list or to resign with severance pay in accordance with Article 32.24(g)(ii).
- (c) An employee who is displaced pursuant to Article 32 shall be entitled to:
  - (i) take the Transition Support Program, or,
  - (ii) go on the Recall List, or
  - (iii) subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or where the Employer establishes that special skills or qualifications are required, according to objective tests or standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned be placed in any vacancy in any bargaining unit.
- (d) An employee will have a maximum of two (2) full days to exercise her rights at any of the foregoing steps of the displacement procedures provided for herein.
- (e) Where an employee accepts a position in a classification, the maximum salary of which is less than the maximum salary of the employee's current classification, the employee shall be paid the salary of the classification of the employee's new position.

### **32.18 Recall Procedures**

- (a) Employees who are laid off shall be placed on a Recall List.
- (b) Subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or where the Employer establishes that special skills or qualifications are required, according to objective tests or standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned, employees placed on the Recall List shall be recalled by order of seniority to any position for which the employee is deemed to be qualified. Positions pursuant to this section shall include all positions in all bargaining units.
- (c) The Employer shall give notice of recall by registered mail to the employee's last recorded address. Employees are responsible for keeping the Employer informed of their current address.
- (d) An employee entitled to recall shall return to the services of the Employer within two (2) weeks of notice of recall, unless on reasonable grounds she is unable to do so. An employee who has been given notice of recall may refuse to exercise such right without prejudicing the right of any future recall, except in the case of recall to the employee's same position classification title or position classification title series, in which event she will be struck from the Recall List, unless she refuses in accordance with Article 35.02(e). However, an employee's refusal to accept recall to her same position classification title or position classification title series at the time of layoff will not result in loss of recall rights in the case of recall for occasional work or for employment of short duration of time during which she is employed elsewhere.
- (e) Employees on the Recall List shall be given first option of filling vacancies normally filled by casual workers, providing they possess the necessary qualifications, skills, and abilities, as determined by the Employer, reflecting the functions of the job concerned. A permanent employee who accepts such casual work retains her permanent status.

### **32.19 Termination of Recall Rights**

The layoff shall be a termination of employment and recall rights shall lapse if the layoff lasts for more than twelve (12) consecutive months without recall.

### **32.20 Loss of Seniority**

An employee shall lose seniority and shall be deemed to have terminated her bargaining unit position in the event that:

- (a) the employee is discharged for just cause and not reinstated;
- (b) the employee resigns;
- (c) the employee is laid off for more than twelve (12) consecutive months without recall; or
- (d) the employee has been appointed in an acting capacity to a position excluded from the bargaining unit for a period in excess of eighteen (18) months, in accordance with Article 34.14(e).

### **32.21 No New Employees**

No new employees shall be hired unless all employees on the Recall List who are able to perform the work required have had an opportunity to be recalled, subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or where the Employer establishes that special skills or qualifications are required, as determined by the Employer, according to objective tests and standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned.

### **32.22 Transition Support Program**

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, the Employer is only required to make a TSP payment to the same number of employees as the Employer has reduced its complement.

### **32.23 Layoff Exception\***

Notwithstanding 32.24 (Contracting Out), an employee who has eight (8) years' seniority shall not be laid off except where the reason for layoff is beyond the control of the Employer including, but not limited to, complete or partial destruction of plant, destruction or breakdown of machinery or equipment, unavailability of supplies and materials, fire, explosion, accident, labour disputes, etc., if the Employer has exercised due diligence to foresee and avoid the cause of layoff.

### **32.24 Contracting Out**

#### **(a) Notice**

The Employer shall provide the Union with sixteen (16) weeks notice of the implementation of the decision to contract out work normally performed by members of the bargaining unit. At the time that the Employer gives notice to the Union of its intention to contract out, the Employer shall make a conditional TSP payment offer in Article 33 to

those employees directly affected by the contracting out. Final acceptance by the Employer of employees wishing to take advantage of the TSP payment offer will be conditional on the Employer reaching an agreement with a Contractor.

(b) **Employer Disclosure**

The Employer shall disclose its reasons for contracting out when notice is provided pursuant to Article 32.24(a).

(c) **Union Response**

The Union shall be entitled to make proposals, including proposals on ways to avoid contracting out, within four (4) weeks of receiving notice pursuant to Article 32.24(a). The Union's suggestions should specifically address the reasons for the contracting out.

(d) **Employer Response**

After receipt of proposals or suggestions from the Union pursuant to Article 32.24(c), the Employer shall consider these proposals. The Employer shall either accept or reject, in whole or in part, such proposals. At this time, the Employer shall either make the TSP payment offer unconditional or retract the TSP payment offer.

(e) **Hiring Preference**

The Employer will make every reasonable effort, where work normally performed by members of the bargaining unit is contracted out, to obtain jobs for employees who have not exercised their rights under Article 32.24(d) and who are directly affected by the contracting out with the Contractor. The Employer will have made reasonable efforts when the Employer has:

- (i) required bidders to give employees a preference in hiring for job opportunities that will arise if they are successful in their bid;
- (ii) met with the Union to give the Union an opportunity to put forward its views on how the employee can try to obtain employment with the Contractor; and,
- (iii) met with the successful bidder and sought to make it a term of the contract with the Contractor that the Contractor must:

- (1) interview employees for job opportunities available with the Contractor to perform the contracted out work;
- (2) where the hiring to perform the contracted out work is subject to appropriate skills testing, offer to test employees;
- (3) extend job offers to employees who are qualified for available job opportunities with the Contractor to perform contracted out work; and
- (4) where there are more qualified employees than the Contractor has opportunities due to the contracted out work, to extend job offers on the basis of seniority.

(f) **TSP Payment Offers**

- (i) Where the Employer determines that there will be redundant positions as a result of a contracting out, the classification(s)/classification groupings to which TSP payment offers will be made will be mutually agreed between the Employer and the Union.
- (ii) The Employer will offer a TSP payment to the agreed upon classification(s)/ classification groupings. In any event, the classification grouping shall include, as a minimum, the classification(s) of the employees affected in the work area by the contracting out of services.

(g) **Placement Procedure**

- (i) If a sufficient number of employees accept the TSP payment offer, the Employer will place the remaining employees whose positions were declared redundant in the vacancies created by the employees accepting the TSP payment offer or other appropriate vacancies. This placement will be by seniority, subject to consideration of ability, experience, qualifications, or the Employer establishing that special skills or qualifications are required according to objective tests or standards reflecting the functions of the job concerned.
- (ii) Where the employee refuses a placement, the salary of which is at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the present salary of the employee's current position, the employee is deemed laid off. The employee will be entitled to severance as follows:

- (1) one-half (1/2) month's pay if she has been employed for three (3) years, but less than ten (10) years;
- one (1) month's pay if she has been employed for ten (10) years, but less than fifteen (15) years;
- two (2) months' pay if she has been employed for fifteen (15) years, but less than twenty (20) years;
- three (3) months' pay if she has been employed for twenty (20) years, but less than twenty-five (25) years;
- four (4) months' pay if she has been employed for twenty-five (25) years, but less than thirty (30) years;
- five (5) months' pay if she has been employed for thirty (30) or more years.

- (2) The amount of severance pay provided herein shall be calculated by the formula:

$$\frac{\text{bi-weekly rate} \times 26}{12} = \text{one (1) month}$$

- (3) The entitlement of an employee to severance pay shall be based upon the employee's total service as defined in this Agreement.

**(h) Second TSP Payment Offer**

If, after the first offer of TSP Payment, there are employees remaining in positions which have been declared redundant, a second offer of a TSP payment will be made to broader classification(s)/classification groupings. The Employer will place the remaining redundant employees in the vacancies created by the employees accepting the TSP payment offer, or other appropriate vacancies, in the same manner as stated in Article 32.24(g).

**(i) Further TSP Payment Offers**

The process of expanding the offer of TSP payment to other classification(s)/classification groupings and areas will be repeated until all those employees whose positions have been declared redundant as a direct effect of the contracting out are placed.

## **ARTICLE 33 – TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**33.01** In order to avoid layoffs, employees selected in accordance with TSP shall receive a severance payment in return for their voluntary resignation. TSP requires that a reduction in the staff complement occurs as a result of each TSP severance payment offered.

### **1.1 Voluntary Resignation and Seniority**

Where the Employer intends to reduce the number of employees within a classification or classification group, and where the Employer has been unable to place employees whose positions have become redundant, the Employer will offer to employees in the affected classification or classification group the opportunity to resign with a TSP payment in order to avoid the need for layoff(s).

Where an offer to a classification of employees (or classification grouping) for resignation results in more volunteers than is required to meet the need, the decision as to who receives severance will be determined on the basis of seniority.

Where the Employer can demonstrate to the Joint Committee on Technological Change that the Employer cannot accommodate the resignation of that number of employees volunteering to resign or that other operational considerations are necessary, the Employer reserves the right to restrict the TSP offer. For example, where too many volunteers within a classification are from within a single work area, it may not be possible to permit all to resign at once. A phase-out procedure may be utilized to maximize the number of volunteers who actually resign.

### **1.2 Joint Committee on Technological Change**

The Joint Committee established in accordance with the Agreement will be responsible:

- (i) to determine the classification within a bargaining unit that will be considered as a single classification for the purpose of the Program;
- (ii) to assess the operational requirements surrounding the Employer's requirement to limit the number of the employees to receive voluntary resignation offers;
- (iii) to review and clarify the impact of resignations on service delivery;



- (iv) to participate in the process of notifying displaced and laid off employees of their options under this Program; and

to address issues that may arise in respect of the interpretation and application of this Program.

### **1.3 TSP**

The TSP shall be presented to employees on a “window-period” basis, as determined by the Employer.

### **1.4 Displacement Process**

- Step 1: At the point where the Employer decides the number of employees within a classification or classification group to be reduced, notification will be given to the Joint Committee on Technological Change. Following Joint Committee consultation, this information shall be made known to employees within that classification or classification group accompanied by a request for indications in writing of interest in voluntary resignation.
- Step 2: Employees shall have seventy-two (72) hours following receipt of the notice to submit their Expression of Interest form.
- Step 3: The Employer will assess the level of interest and determine provisional acceptance subject to operational requirements, in accordance with item 1.1 of this Program. This determination will be made in consultation with the Joint Committee On Technological Change and as soon as is reasonably possible following the seventy-two (72) hour response time.
- Step 4: Employees shall, within seven (7) days following a meeting with a representative of Human Resources, indicate their decision with respect to voluntary resignation. The actual date of resignation will occur with the agreement of the Employer. Upon resignation, the employee will be entitled to the TSP payment in accordance with this Program.
- Step 5: (a) Article 32 of the Collective Agreement applies to employees whose positions are eliminated due to the reduction of the number of employees in a classification or classification group. These employees shall be considered to be redundant pursuant to Article 32.12 of the Collective

Agreement and shall have the rights of a redundant employee.

- (b) Any employee displaced in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement shall be given seventy-two (72) hours to express their interest in TSP in accordance with Step 2 above. Those expressing an interest will have their application processed in accordance with Step 4 above. Where an employee declines the TSP opportunity, the Layoff and Recall provisions of the Agreement shall apply.

Step 6: (a) Where the Employer reaches its reduction target through this voluntary method, the process would end.

- (b) Where the number of voluntary resignations with TSP payment is less than the number of employees in the classification or classification group to be reduced, the Employer shall identify those employees who are subject to layoff. Before any employee receives a notice of layoff, the employer will notify the employee who will have seventy-two (72) hours to express an interest in TSP in accordance with Step 2 above. Those expressing an interest will have their application processed in accordance with Step 4 above. Employees who decline the TSP opportunity shall be issued layoff notice in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

## **1.5 Salary Protection**

Employees who accept placement in a position at a lower rate of pay, shall have their previous rate of pay maintained for such period as set out under this Item.

Where the employee's previous rate of pay exceeds the rate of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) per year, that rate of pay shall be maintained for a period of six (6) months from the date of placement in the lower-paying position. Thereafter, the employee's protected rate of pay shall be reduced by ten (10) percent or to the maximum rate of the new classification, or the rate of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) per year, whichever is the greater rate. The rate of pay will remain at this reduced level (subject to any regular Collective Agreement regulated changes) for a further period of twelve (12) months, after which the rate of pay will be reduced to the maximum of the lower-paying position.

Where the employee's previous rate of pay is equal to or less than the rate of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) per year, or less, that rate of pay shall be maintained (subject to any regular Collective Agreement regulated changes) for a

period of eighteen (18) months, after which the rate of pay will be reduced to the maximum of the lower-paying position.

#### **1.6 Reduced Hours and TSP Payment**

Employees who accept an alternate position under this Program and as a result have a reduction of hours shall not qualify for a TSP payment.

#### **1.7 Release Form**

Employees accepting voluntary resignation will be required to sign a release statement verifying their resignation and agreement to sever any future claim for compensation from the Employer or obligation by the Union for further services except as provided in this Program in exchange for the TSP payment.

#### **1.8 Casual Shifts**

It shall only be for extraordinary operational needs that the Employer will utilize on a casual basis, an employee who has resigned with a TSP payment under this Program during the period covered by the applicable notice payment period.

#### **1.9 TSP Severance Payment**

The amount of TSP payment shall be equivalent to four (4) weeks' regular (i.e. excluding overtime) pay for each year of service to a maximum payment of fifty-two (52) weeks' pay and for a minimum payment of eight (8) weeks' pay. Where there is a partial year of service, the TSP payment will be pro-rated on the basis of the number of months of service. An employee who resigns in accordance with these provisions and is eligible to receive a pension under the CDHA Pension Plan and commences receiving the pension immediately following the completion of the TSP payment, shall also be entitled to receive the Retirement Allowance under Article 29 of the Collective Agreement. The maximum combined TSP and Retirement allowance payment shall not exceed fifty-two (52) weeks. The retirement allowance will be paid to the employee at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the provisions of the *Income Tax Act of Canada*.

#### **1.10 Formula for Part-time Hours**

In determining the extent of the existing part-time relationship of an employee at the time of resignation, layoff or other application of this program where the hours worked are not regular due to working additional shifts, the average of the employee's hours worked during the six (6) month period preceding the severance (or average over the preceding period of part-time employment where that period is less than six (6) months) will be used.

### **1.11 Continuation of Benefits**

Employees in receipt of a TSP payment will be entitled to continue participation in the applicable group insurance and benefit plans for the length of the TSP payment period. During such period the contributions will be cost shared in accordance with Article 20.01 of the collective agreement. It is understood that the Employer's obligations in this respect do not apply to plans for which the employee is currently responsible for the full cost of contributions.

### **1.12 Re-employment Considerations**

It is intended that TSP participants not be re-employed by an acute care employer during their TSP payment period. For purposes of this program, acute care employer includes the following employers: Capital District Health Authority, IWK Health Centre, Cape Breton Healthcare Complex and all District Health Authorities. An employee in receipt of a TSP payment who is re-employed with an acute care employer will be required to repay an amount equal to the remaining portion of the TSP payment period. The repayment may be achieved through a payroll deduction plan that provides for full recovery over a period that is no more than twice the length of the remaining TSP payment period or through a lump sum payment. The employee has the right to determine the method of repayment.

### **1.13 Number of Employees**

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, the Employer is only required to provide a TSP payment to the same number of employees as the Employer has reduced its complement.

### **1.14 Severance Payment Method**

It is understood that the method of payment of the severance (for example, lump sum or incremental payment schemes) shall be determined by the employee, provided that the total amount of payment is fully paid within the applicable notice payment period (not greater than fifty-two (52) weeks). That is, lump sum payments or other incremental payment schemes are possible.

### **1.15 Transition Services / EAP**

Employees covered under this program will be allowed to participate in any Regional Transition or EAP programs available to health sector employees in the province.

### **1.16 Transition Allowance**

Employees who resign with a TSP payment will be eligible for a transition allowance up to a maximum of \$2,500. This sum may be utilized for one or a combination of the following:

- to assist in offsetting the costs in moving to accept a position with another employer, which is located a distance of 50 kilometers or more from the site of their previous usual workplace; and
- to cover the cost of participation in employer-approved retraining programs. The Employer will not unreasonably withhold such approval.

In all cases employees will require receipts for recovery of expenses. Only expenses incurred during the TSP severance payment period following the date of resignation are eligible for reimbursement under this Program.

## **ARTICLE 34 - PAY PROVISIONS\***

### **34.01 Rates of Pay\***

- (a) The rates of pay set out in Appendix 3 shall form part of this Agreement.
- (b)\* The following general wage increases shall be implemented for each of the classifications in the Nursing bargaining unit during the term of this collective agreement:

Effective November 1, 2012 - a 2.5% general economic increase.

Effective November 1, 2013 - a 3% general economic increase.

### **34.02 Rate of Pay Upon Appointment**

Subject to Article 34.03, the rate of compensation of a person upon appointment to a position shall be the minimum rate prescribed for the class to which she is appointed.

### **34.03 Exception**

The rate of compensation of a person upon appointment to a position may be at a rate higher than the minimum rate prescribed for the class if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to affect the appointment of a qualified person to the position or if the person to be appointed to the position has qualifications in excess of the minimum requirements for the position.

#### **34.04 Rate of Pay Upon Promotion**

Subject to Article 34.05, the rate of compensation of a person upon promotion to a position in a higher pay range shall be at the next higher rate or the minimum of the new class, whichever is greater, than that received by the employee before the promotion.

#### **34.05 Exception**

The rate of compensation of an employee upon promotion to a position may be at a rate higher than that prescribed in Article 34.04 if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to effect the promotion of a qualified person to the position.

#### **34.06 Rate of Pay Upon Demotion**

The rate of compensation of an employee upon demotion to a position in a lower pay range shall be at the next lowest rate or the maximum of the new class, whichever is lesser, than that received by the employee before the demotion.

#### **34.07 Anniversary Date**

The anniversary date of an employee shall be the first day of the month in which employment occurs if the employee reported for duty during the first seven (7) calendar days of the month in which she was employed, or the first day of the following month if the employee reported for duty later than the seventh calendar day of the month. The anniversary date will only change to the first day of another month if:

- (a) the employee is reclassified, at which time the date of the reclassification becomes her new anniversary date;
- (b) the employee has been on leave of absence without pay, in which case the employee's anniversary date will be moved forward by the amount of time which the employee was on leave without pay, unless otherwise provided in this Agreement.

#### **34.08 Rate of Pay Upon Reclassification**

Where an employee is recommended for a reclassification which falls on her anniversary date the employee's salary shall be adjusted first by the implementation of her annual increment, provided she is recommended and an increment is available in her present pay range, and on the same date her salary shall be adjusted upward to comply with the provisions of Articles 34.04 and 34.05.

### **34.09 Salary Increments**

The Employer, except as provided for in Article 34.10, may grant an increment for meritorious service after an employee has served for a period of twelve months following the first day of the month established in Article 34.07 or twelve (12) months following the date of a change in her rate of compensation as established in Articles 34.03, 34.04, or 34.06. Notice of Withheld Increment

When an increase provided for in Article 34.09 is withheld, the reason for withholding shall be given to the employee in writing by the Employer.

### **34.11 Granting of Withheld Increment**

When an increase provided for in Article 34.09 is withheld, the increase may be granted on any subsequent first day of any month after the anniversary date upon which the increase was withheld.

### **34.12 Long Service Increment**

A new step will be added to the pay scale. The new step will be effective on April 1, 2008.

The step will be available to a Registered Nurse who has completed twenty-five (25) years of service. The step will be a salary increment 3.5% greater than the highest rate in effect for the applicable classification.

### **34.13 Late Career Nurse Retention Bonus\***

The Employer will provide a retention equal to two percent (2%) of the gross annual base earnings (exclusive of premiums) to eligible Nurses who remain employed for twelve (12) months after becoming eligible to retire. To receive the bonus the Nurse must be eligible to retire with an unreduced pension under the terms of the Employer's pension plan and must work the entire twelve (12) month period. The Nurse must apply in writing to People Services to participate in the retention bonus program following eligibility. The Nurse shall be paid a lump sum at the conclusion of the twelve (12) month period after application. If a Nurse misses the first day of eligibility, she will be given a grace period of three (3) months in which to apply and, if the Nurse applies within the three (3) month grace period, the twelve (12) month period shall commence on the date of eligibility, rather than the date of application. After the expiry of the three (3) month grace period, the twelve (12) month period shall commence on the date of application. The Nurse need not reapply in order to participate in subsequent years.

#### **34.14 Acting Pay**

- (a) Where an employee is designated to perform for a temporary period of three (3) or more consecutive days, the principal duties of a higher position, she shall receive payment of acting pay, including the three (3) days, equivalent to ten percent (10%) higher than her existing rate of pay, provided that in no case shall the rate for that period exceed the maximum rate of the higher-paying position.
- (b) Acting pay shall not be paid to the employee where the employee's current position normally requires periodic substitution in the higher position, as defined by the position specification, title, and salary range.
- (c) Acting pay provisions shall not apply in series classifications of positions.
- (d) Acting pay provisions do not preclude the right of the Employer to assign duties of any employee among remaining employees of the work unit where temporary absences occur.
- (e) In the event that an employee remains in an acting capacity in a position excluded from the bargaining unit for a period in excess of eighteen (18) months the provisions of Article 32.20(d) shall apply.

#### **34.15 Shift Premium\***

Effective October 31, 2014, an employee shall receive a shift premium of one dollar and eighty-five cents (\$1.85) per hour for all hours worked, including overtime hours worked, on shifts, half or more of the hours of which are regularly scheduled between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

#### **34.16 Week-end Premium\***

Effective October 31, 2014, an employee shall receive a week-end premium of one dollar and eighty-five cents (\$1.85) per hour for all hours worked between the hours of 0001 Saturday and 0700 Monday.

#### **34.17 Unit Premium**

An employee who is regularly and continuously assigned to a unit, pursuant to Article 34.19, shall, after completing four (4) months' service in the specified unit, receive a premium equivalent to \$105.00 per month for each completed month of service in the specified unit. Such payment is to commence upon completion of the fourth (4th) month of service for the fourth (4th) and subsequent months of service.



### **34.18 Transfers between Units**

Time spent in units prior to the date of signing of this Agreement shall be considered for the purposes of the qualifying period described in Article 34.17. Employees who are transferred by the Employer from one unit to another, as listed in Article 34.19 shall not be required to serve the qualifying period described in Article 34.17. Employees who transfer from one unit to another, as listed in Article 34.19, at their request, shall be required to serve an additional one (1) month's qualifying period before regaining the premium pursuant to Article 34.17.

### **34.19 Designated Units\***

The following are the units designated in the Capital District Health Authority for the purpose of this Article:

- Emergency
- ICU
  - Medical/Surgical
  - Medical/Surgical/Neuro
  - Cardiovascular
- Coronary Care Unit
- Cardiac Catheterization
- Renal Dialysis
- 3IMCU-HI
- Nova Scotia Cancer Centre
- Burn Unit
- Operating Room
- Post Anaesthetic Care Unit
- Vascular Unit (Angiography)
- Emerald Hall
- Forensic Unit
- Medical Day Unit
- Chemotherapy Unit
- Offender Health - Cape Breton
  - Central Nova

### **34.20 Discontinuance of Premium**

Unit Premium to an employee shall be discontinued where:

- (a) the employee is permanently reassigned to a position outside the units listed in Article 34.19.

(b) the employee is granted leave of absence with pay, with part pay, or without pay, in excess of thirty (30) consecutive days for such purpose as illness, injury, education or pregnancy.

(c) the function provided by a unit pursuant to Article 34.19 is discontinued.

### **34.21 Educational Premiums - Post-Graduate Training - 3 Months**

A Registered Nurse, with post graduate training of three (3) months, but less than six (6) months and who is utilizing this course, shall be paid, effective on April 1, 2008, an additional \$27.82 per month, provided that she has utilized this course within four (4) years prior to employment. Recognition of clinical courses of two (2) months' duration provided by the former Victoria General Hospital shall be given for the purpose of this Article.

### **34.22 Post-Graduate Training - 6 Months**

A Registered Nurse with post-graduate training of six (6) months or more, and who is employed in a capacity utilizing this course, shall be paid, effective on April 1, 2008, an additional \$55.65 per month, provided that she has utilized the course within four (4) years prior to employment.

### **34.23 Baccalaureate Degree**

A Registered Nurse who has received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing and has completed four (4) months' continuous service shall be paid, effective on April 1, 2008, an additional \$120.57 per month.

### **34.24 Masters Degree**

A Registered Nurse who has received a Masters Degree in Nursing and has completed four (4) months' continuous service shall be paid, effective on April 1, 2008, an additional \$163.42 per month.

### **34.25 No Pyramiding of Benefits**

An employee may not qualify for more than one (1) payment under Articles 34.21, 34.22, 34.23, and 34.24.

### **34.26 Discontinuation of Premium**

Notwithstanding Article 34.27, Education Premium shall be discontinued where:

(a) the employee is on leave of absence with pay or part pay in excess of thirty (30) days, or without pay. An employee on leave of absence with

part pay for thirty (30) days or less shall have the premium reduced on a pro-rata basis.

- (b) the premium is not contingent upon the requirement that the additional training be utilized in the performance of the employee's functions.

### **34.27 Employer Conducted Post-Graduate Training**

An employee enrolled in post-graduate training courses, pursuant to Article 34.21 and 34.22, conducted by the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre shall continue to receive an Education Premium which she is in receipt of prior to the commencement of the course of study.

### **34.28 CNA Certification**

A Registered Nurse who is in receipt of a current certification under the Canadian Nurse Association Certification program and who is employed in a capacity utilizing this training shall be paid an additional \$83.00 per month commencing on the first calendar day of the new month after she has submitted proof of the certification to the employer.

### **34.29 In-Charge Pay**

- (a) During the off duty hours of the Nurse Manager, a nurse designated as being "in-charge" shall be paid a premium of 70¢ per hour. The off duty hours are those hours when the Nurse Manager is not normally on duty (e.g., evenings, nights, week-ends, paid holidays).
- (b) During the on duty hours of the Nurse Manager, a nurse designated "in-charge" shall receive pay equivalent to eight percent (8%) higher than her existing rate of pay.

### **34.30 Charge Nurse\***

When the Employer identifies a need for a Charge Nurse that it anticipates shall last at least 30 days, and not exceeding 18 months, the Employer shall invite expressions of interest from within the unit where the need has been identified. The Employer shall not appoint a Charge Nurse to consecutive terms unless no other qualified nurse expresses interest.

## **ARTICLE 35 - REASSIGNMENT**

### **35.01 Circumstances**

In circumstances where there is a staff need in a work area and a surplus of employees in another work area, and where employees essentially perform the same function as employees in the same classification or position classification title series, and where the Employer does not plan to increase the complement of staff, the Employer may, in accordance with Article 35.02 or Article 35.03, reassign an employee(s) within the same classification or position classification title series.

### **35.02 Reassignment**

- (a) The employer will notify employees of the need by inviting expressions of interest.
- (b) When informing employees regarding a reassignment, the Employer shall indicate the necessary qualifications, skills and ability, reflecting the functions of the job concerned, required to perform the duties of the position in question.
- (c) Where it is determined by the Employer that:
  - (i) two or more employees for such a reassignment are qualified; and
  - (ii) those employees are of equal merit, preference in selecting the employee for the reassignment shall be given to the employee with the greatest length of seniority.
- (d) Where the Employer does not receive any qualified employees' expression of interest in accepting the reassignment, the most junior employee pursuant to (b) in the work area shall be reassigned.
- (e) For the purposes of Articles 32 and 35 of the Collective Agreement, the Employer agrees to take all reasonable measures (including consultation in accordance with Article 32.01) to mitigate any undue hardship on an employee who is reassigned from the Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital, Hants Community Hospital, Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital and Twin Oaks Memorial Hospital to any other site or from the Cobequid Multi Service Centre, the Dartmouth General Hospital, the Nova Scotia Hospital (including the East Coast Forensic Psychiatric Hospital) and the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre to the Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital, Hants Community Hospital, Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital or Twin Oaks Memorial Hospital.

### **35.03 Emergencies**

If the circumstances are of an urgent nature or an emergency, the Employer may reassign employees within the same classification or position classification title series, pending the completion of the reassignment process as outlined in Article 35.02.

### **35.04 Job Postings**

The Employer's right to fill vacancies in accordance with this provision shall not be used to avoid the posting of vacancies in accordance with Article 10. The Employer shall not exercise the right to reassign in an unreasonable or arbitrary manner. The Employer may post a position in any circumstances in which the Employer deems this warranted.

### **35.05 Grievances**

Before a grievance on reassignment is referred to arbitration, the circumstances are to be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Technological Change.

### **35.06 Notification to the Union**

The Employer will notify the Union of all employees reassigned pursuant to Article 35.02.

## **ARTICLE 36 - EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY**

### **36.01 Employer's Liability**

- (a) The Employer, the Union, and the employees agree to be bound by the Employer's "Legal Support for Employees" policy, dated March, 1997. For clarification it is understood that this includes providing legal support to:
  - (i) all employees who are witnesses or potential witnesses in any legal action which is based on a claim that a patient suffered harm as a result of negligent treatment received at the CDHA; and
  - (ii) employees who are named parties (defendants) in legal action based on a claim that a patient suffered harm as a result of negligent treatment received at the CDHA, so long as the employee was acting without criminal intent.
  
- (a) Any amendments made to the said policy shall not diminish the right of any employee as established in the Policy dated March, 1997.

## **ARTICLE 37 - CASUAL EMPLOYEES**

### **37.01 Application of the Collective Agreement**

Except as specifically provided herein, the provision of this Agreement shall apply to casual employees as defined in Article 1.01.

### **37.02 Exceptions**

The articles not applicable to casual employees, except as provided in Article 38, are:

- (a) Service (Article 1.02)
- (b) Time off for Union Business (Article 13)
- (c) Appointment (Article 9)
- (d) Hours of Work (Article 14)
- (e) Overtime (Article 15)
- (f) Vacations (Article 17)
- (g) Holidays (Article 18)
- (h) Leaves (Article 19)
- (i) Illness/Injury Benefit (Article 21)
- (j) Pensions (Article 30)
- (k) Group Insurance (Article 20)
- (l) Long Term Disability (Article 21.06)
- (m) Retirement Allowance (Article 29)
- (n) Job Security (Article 32)
- (o) Part-Time Employees (Article 39)
- (p) Educational Premiums (Article 34.19)
- (q) Prepaid Leave (Article 44)

### **37.03 Appointment**

A casual employee shall be appointed on a non-permanent basis and is not obliged to report to work when called subject to Article 38.03 (c).

### **37.04 Probationary Period**

- (a) Notwithstanding Article 37.03, a newly hired casual employee may be appointed to her position on a probationary basis for a period not to exceed 495 hours of time actually worked or twelve (12) months, whichever is greater.

- (b) The Employer shall, after the employee has served as a casual on a probationary basis for the period indicated in Article 37.04 (a), confirm the appointment.
- (c) The Employer shall, after the casual employee has served in a position on a probationary period for the period indicated in Article 37.04 (a), confirm the appointment.
- (d) A casual employee who has completed her probationary period and whose employment has been terminated for any reason and who is reappointed as a casual within twelve (12) months from the date of termination shall not have to complete another probationary period.

### **37.05 Termination of Probationary Appointment**

- (a) The Employer may terminate a probationary casual employee at any time.
- (b) If the employment of a probationary casual employee is to be terminated for reasons other than wilful misconduct or disobedience or neglect of duty, the Employer shall advise the casual employee of the reason in writing not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of termination.
- (c) The Employer shall notify the Union when a probationary casual employee is terminated.

### **37.06 Assignment of Casual Employees**

Casual employees shall be offered work in accordance with Article 38.

### **37.07 Pay in Lieu of Benefits**

A casual employee shall receive an additional eleven (11%) per cent of her straight time pay in lieu of benefits (e.g., vacation, holidays, etc.) under this Agreement. This shall be paid to the employee with each bi-weekly pay.

### **37.08 Overtime**

A casual employee shall be entitled to overtime compensation at one and one-half (1 ½) times her rate of pay when she works in excess of the bi-weekly hours for the classification.

### **37.09 Holiday Pay**

A casual employee who works on a designated holiday defined in Article 18.01 shall be paid two (2) times her regular rate for all hours worked on Christmas Day, and one and one-half (1 ½) times her regular rate for all hours worked on any other designated holiday.

### **37.10 Overtime on a Holiday**

A casual employee who works overtime on a designated holiday as defined in Article 18.01 shall be paid two and one-half (2 ½) times her regular rate for all overtime hours worked on Christmas Day and two (2) times her regular rate of pay for all overtime hours worked on any other designated holidays.

### **37.11 Leaves**

- (a) A casual employee filling Relief Assignments shall be entitled to the following leaves:
  - (i) Bereavement Leave (Article 19.02);
  - (ii) Selection/Promotion Process Leave (Article 19.05);
  - (iii) Pregnancy Leave (Article 19.06(a) to (n)) but without Pregnancy Allowance (Article 19.06(o));
  - (iv) Leave for Birth of Child (Article 19.09);
- (b) To obtain paid leave for any of the above, the employee must be scheduled to work on the day the leave is required. In the case of bereavement leave pursuant to Article 19.02(a), the casual employee shall receive paid leave only for those shifts previously scheduled within the said seven (7) calendar days.

### **37.12 Rate of Pay upon Appointment**

Subject to Article 37.14, the rate of compensation of a casual employee shall be the minimum rate prescribed for the classification to which she is appointed.

### **37.13 Exception to Rate of Pay**

The rate of compensation of a casual employee may be at a rate higher than the minimum rate prescribed for the classification if, in the opinion of the Employer, such higher rate is necessary to affect the appointment, or if the casual employee to be appointed has qualifications in excess of the minimum requirements.



### **37.14 Pay Increments**

A casual employee shall be entitled to an increment on the completion of nineteen hundred and fifty (1950) hours worked and a further increment upon the completion of each period of nineteen hundred and fifty (1950) hours worked thereafter to a maximum for the employee's classification.

### **37.15 No Avoidance**

A casual employee shall not be used for the purpose of avoiding filling permanent vacancies.

### **37.16 Termination of Employment Relationship**

A casual employee who has not been called to report for work, or who has been unavailable for work for twelve (12) months, notwithstanding Article 38.03 (c), shall cease to be an employee.

### **37.17 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provisions to which they refer.

## **ARTICLE 38 - LONG ASSIGNMENTS, SHORT ASSIGNMENTS, AND RELIEF ASSIGNMENTS**

### **38.01 Casual Availability List**

The Employer shall maintain a Casual Availability List, which shall list all eligible employees who have indicated a desire to be assigned casual work. Only employees on the recall list, permanent part-time employees, and casual employees are eligible to be on the Casual Availability List.

### **38.02 Employee(s) on Recall List**

Notwithstanding any provision of this Article, all available casual work shall be first offered to an employee who has recall rights provided she possesses the necessary qualifications, skills, and abilities, as determined by the Employer, reflecting the functions of the job concerned. An employee on the Recall List may instruct the Employer to remove her name from a Unit Specific Casual List at the time of layoff notice or any time during the recall period as specified in Article 32.

### **38.03 Unit Specific Casual Lists**

- (a) The Casual Availability List shall be broken down into Unit Specific Casual Lists.
- (b) Provided an employee possesses the necessary qualifications, skills, and abilities reflecting the functions of the job concerned, as determined by the Employer, an employee as specified in Article 38.01 may have her name placed on a Unit Specific Casual List. Such employee may also have her name placed on other Unit Specific Casual Lists in accordance with (e) and (f) below.
- (c) An employee on a Unit Specific Casual List is not obliged to accept an assignment when offered. However, if an employee is consistently unavailable when called for work on a unit, she shall be struck from that Unit Specific Casual List unless the employee has notified the Employer that she shall be unavailable for work for a specific period of time.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the employee to keep the Employer informed of any changes in her desire to be assigned casual work.
- (e) **Permanent Part-time Employees**
  - (i) A permanent part-time employee may place her name on the Unit Specific Casual List of her unit if she wishes to be offered casual work. Such employee must indicate whether she wants to be offered short assignments or relief assignments, or both.
  - (ii) A permanent part-time employee may request that her name be placed on one (1) additional Unit Specific Casual List. Such a request shall be considered by the Employer and the decision will be made based on operational requirements.
- (f) **Casual Employees**

A casual employee may place her name on any Unit Specific Casual List(s).
- (g) The Employer may determine that an employee on the Unit Specific Casual List no longer possesses the necessary qualifications, skills, and abilities as determined by the Employer, reflecting the functions of the job concerned. If the Employer determines that the employee is no longer qualified, the employee shall be struck from that Unit Specific Casual List, in which case written notification shall be given to the Union and the employee.

- (h) In unusual situations, the Employer may request an employee who is not on a particular Unit Specific Casual List to work in that unit. Such an assignment does not result in the employee being deemed qualified for the unit's list.

#### **38.04 Long Assignments**

- (a) A Long Assignment is non-permanent work of a duration greater than nine (9) months and shall be used for the purpose of filling vacancies temporarily vacated as a result of long term disability, job-share arrangements, Workers' Compensation leave, and approved leaves of greater than nine months; and for staffing special projects.
- (b) Except in the circumstances outlined in paragraph (c) below, Long Assignments shall be posted in accordance with Article 10.
- (c) Where the Long Assignment is being used to temporarily replace an employee on a pregnancy-related absence for a continuous period in excess of nine (9) months, which includes the total pregnancy leave combined with an employee's parental leave and any other related leave, the assignment may be filled in accordance with the procedure in Article 38.05. An employee on such long assignment shall in all other respects be treated as an employee on Long Assignment.
- (d) A permanent employee who applies for and accepts a Long Assignment shall maintain her permanent status for the duration of that Assignment. Benefits shall be pro-rated in accordance with the designation of the Assignment.
- (e) A casual employee who accepts a Long Assignment shall receive fifteen (15) days paid vacation leave pro-rated for the designation and the duration of her assignment.
- (f) Notwithstanding Article 37.02, a casual employee who accepts a Long Assignment shall only be excluded from the following benefits:
  - (i) Vacation (Article 17)
  - (ii) Pregnancy Leave Allowance (Article 19.06(o))
  - (iii) Adoption Leave Allowance (Article 19.08(j))
  - (iv) Prepaid Leave (Article 19.14 and 44)
  - (v) Leave of Absence for Political Office (Article 19.15)
  - (vi) Military Leave (Article 19.16)
  - (vii) Education Leave (Article 19.17)
  - (viii) Retirement Allowance (Article 29)

- (ix) Job Security (Article 32)
  - (x) Job Sharing (Article 40)
  - (xi) Long Term Disability (Article 21.06)
- (g) All benefits enjoyed by a casual employee in a Long Assignment shall be pro-rated, if appropriate, for the designation and duration of the Assignment.
- (h) A casual employee who accepts a Long Assignment shall be entitled to:
- (i) Group Insurance (Article 20), Medical Benefits, and at the casual employee's option, Pension (Article 30), pro-rated for the designation of the Long Assignment if the designation of the Long Assignment is .4 FTE but less than full time;
  - (ii) Group Insurance (Article 20), Medical/Dental Benefits, and, at the casual employee's option, Pension (Article 30), if the designation is full time;
  - (iii) Effective July 1, 1999, Article 38.04 (h)(ii) shall apply to all casuals who accept a Long Assignment of .4FTE or greater.
- (i) A casual employee who accepts a Long Assignment will be scheduled in accordance with Article 14 of this Agreement.
- (j) Overtime shall be granted in accordance with Article 15 or Article 39, whichever is applicable to the Assignment.
- (k) When the Long Assignment ends, a permanent employee shall return to her former position, or if that position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.
- (l) When a Long Assignment ends, a casual employee shall return to the Unit Specific Casual List(s).
- (m) If a Long Assignment or Short Assignment or consecutive Long or Short Assignment extends beyond four (4) years, a casual employee in such Assignment(s) shall receive all benefits a permanent employee would receive.

### **38.05 Short Assignments**

- (a) A Short Assignment is non-permanent work of a duration of greater than one month but not exceeding nine (9) months.

- (b) Short Assignments shall be filled from the Unit Specific Casual List as follows:
  - (i) employees on the recall list in order of their seniority;
  - (ii) permanent part-time employees in order of their seniority;
  - (iii) casual employees in order of their seniority.
- (c) If a Short Assignment is not able to be filled in accordance with Article 38.05 (b), it shall be posted in accordance with Article 10.
- (d) An employee offered a Short Assignment is not required to accept the Assignment.
- (e) A permanent employee who accepts a Short Assignment shall maintain her permanent status for the duration of that Assignment. Benefits shall be pro-rated for the designation of the Assignment, if applicable.
- (f) A casual employee who accepts a Short Assignment shall receive the following benefits, prorated, if applicable for the designation of her Assignment:
  - (i) fifteen (15) days' unpaid vacation per year;
  - (ii) Leave for Union Business (Article 13);
  - (iii) Leaves (Article 19), excluding Pregnancy Leave Allowance, Adoption Leave Allowance, General Leave, Leave of Absence for Political Office, Prepaid Leave, Military Leave, Education Leave (Articles 19.06(o), 19.08(i), 19.11, 19.14, 19.15, 19.16 and 19.17;
  - (iv) General Leave, except that leave for personal illnesses or injuries shall not be limited to periods of three (3) days or less (Article 19.11).
  - (v) Eleven percent (11%) in lieu of benefits.
- (g) A casual employee who accepts a Short Assignment will be scheduled in accordance with Article 14 of this Agreement.
- (h) Overtime shall be granted in accordance with Article 15 or Article 39, whichever is applicable to the Assignment.
- (i) When a Short Assignment ends, a permanent employee shall return to her previous position, or if that position no longer exists, the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change.

- (j) When the Short Assignment ends, a casual employee shall return to the Unit Specific Casual List(s).

### **38.06 Part-time Employees Accepting Assignments of Full-time Hours**

Any part-time employee whose name is on a Unit Specific Casual List(s) shall have her name removed from the list(s) during the assignment of full-time hours.

### **38.07 Relief Assignments**

- (a) An Assignment that does not exceed one (1) month (a "Relief Assignment") shall be offered on a rotating basis to employees on a Unit Specific Casual List. Where operational requirements permit, an employee may be assigned up to a maximum of five (5) working days.
- (b) The assigning order for a Unit Specific Casual List is:
  - (i) employees on the recall list in order of their seniority;
  - (ii) permanent part-time employees in order of their seniority; and
  - (iii) casual employees in order of their seniority;
- (c) An employee offered Relief Assignment is not required to accept the Assignment.
- (d) Accepting a Relief Assignment shall not increase the designation of a Permanent Part-time Employee.

### **38.08 Cancellation of Relief Assignment**

An employee accepting a Relief Assignment may have that assignment cancelled with three (3) hours notice if there is no longer a requirement for the Relief Assignment. If less than three (3) hours notice is given, the employee shall receive three (3) hours compensation at her rate of pay.

### **38.09 Reporting Pay**

An employee reporting for work as scheduled and finding no work available will be guaranteed four (4) hours pay at her rate of pay.

### **38.10 Termination of Assignments**

- (a) The Employer may terminate a Long Assignment, a Short Assignment, or a Relief Assignment at any time.

- (b) If a Long Assignment or a Short Assignment is to be discontinued, the Employer shall advise the employee in writing not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of discontinuance.
- (c) The Employer will notify the Union when a Long Assignment or Short Assignment is discontinued.

### **38.11 Pay in Lieu of Notice**

Where less notice in writing is given than required in Article 38.10(b), an employee shall continue to receive her pay for the number of days for which the notice was not given.

### **38.12 Completion of Assignments**

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b), an employee who accepts a Long or Short Assignment cannot commence another such assignment until the employee's existing assignment is completed.
- (b) The restriction above in paragraph (a) will not apply in cases where a subsequent assignment arises in the same classification on the same work unit.

### **38.13 Casuals Placed in Assignments**

- (a) A casual employee on a full-time Long or Short Assignment shall have her name temporarily removed from all Unit Specific Casual Lists for the duration of the Assignment.
- (b) A casual employee on a part-time assignment shall be restricted in accordance with Article 38.04 (e)(i) and (ii).

### **38.14 Overtime Restrictions**

The Employer is not obliged to offer additional shifts to an employee when she becomes eligible for overtime compensation.

### **38.15 Headings**

The headings in this Article are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

## **ARTICLE 39 - PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

### **39.01 Application of Collective Agreement**

Except as specifically provided herein, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply to part-time employees as defined in Article 1.01.

### **39.02 Entitlement to Benefits**

Part time employees will be covered by this Agreement and shall be entitled to benefits pro-rated on the basis of hours worked, except as otherwise agreed to by the Parties.

### **39.03 Hours Worked**

- (a) "Hours worked" for a part-time employee shall mean the employee's designated hours of work.
- (b) Although not "hours worked" as applicable in this Article, when a part-time employee works a relief assignment, she shall receive an additional eleven percent (11%) over and above her current rate of pay in lieu of benefits for the relief assignment.

### **39.04 Earning Entitlements**

For the purposes of earning entitlement to a benefit (e.g., vacation increment, merit increments, pregnancy leave, etc.), calendar time of employment will be applicable.

### **39.05 Unpaid Leave**

Unpaid leave, such as pregnancy leave, will not be pro-rated as to the length of time granted.

### **39.06 Bereavement Leave**

An employee who has a death in her immediate family shall receive seven (7) calendar days leave pursuant to Article 19.02(a), however, the minimum hours of paid leave shall be pro-rated as to the employee's designation. All other bereavement leaves pursuant to Article 19.02 shall not be pro-rated.



### **39.07 Service**

For the purpose of accumulating service for part-time employment, part-time employees will not be subject to the negating provisions of Article 1.02(b). Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, part-time employees will accumulate service and be credited with service on a pro-rata basis in accordance with hours worked, including designated paid holidays or days off in lieu thereof, vacation, sick leave, injury on duty leave, paid leaves of absence.

### **39.08 Overtime**

- (a) Part-time employees will be entitled to overtime compensation in accordance with this Agreement when they work in excess of the normal full-time bi-weekly hours.
- (b) Part-time employees who are scheduled for a shift of seven (7) or more hours will be entitled to overtime compensation for time worked beyond (before or after) the scheduled hours.
- (c) Part-time employees who are scheduled to work a shorter period than the full-time shift will be entitled to overtime compensation after they have worked the equivalent of a full shift.
- (d) Where part-time employees are scheduled to work less than the normal hours per bi-weekly period of full-time employees in the work unit, straight time rates will be paid up to and including the normal work hours in the bi-weekly period of the full-time employees and overtime rates will be paid for hours worked in excess thereof.

### **39.09 Group Insurance**

- (a) Part-time employees (.4 FTE or greater) will be covered by a medical plan which is equivalent in coverage to the health care plan covering full-time employees. The Employer will pay 65% of the total premium cost for such health care coverage. The employee agrees to pay 35% of her total premium cost.
- (b) Part-time employees (.4 FTE or greater) will be covered by group life insurance with benefit entitlement prorated on the basis of hours worked. For example, fifty per cent (50%) of the full-time hours in a position with an annual (full-time) salary of \$30,000 will have her insurance coverage based on \$15,000 per annum salary.

- (c) Part-time employees are entitled to coverage pursuant to the Long Term Disability Plan applicable to full-time employees covered by this collective agreement.

### **39.10 Pension**

- (a) Part-time employees who are presently covered by a pension plan shall continue to be covered by the terms of that plan.
- (b) Part-time employees not presently covered by a pension plan shall be brought under the terms of one of the existing plans, as determined by mutual agreement of the parties.

### **39.11 Headings**

The headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference only and shall not be taken into account in the construction or interpretation of any provision to which they refer.

## **ARTICLE 40 - JOB SHARING**

### **40.01 Terms and Conditions of Job Sharing**

The terms and conditions governing job sharing arrangements will be as mutually agreed to by the Union and the Employer.

### **40.02 Part of Collective Agreement**

The terms and conditions of job sharing arrangements agreed to by the parties will form part of the Collective Agreement.

### **40.03 Rights and Benefits**

Except as otherwise provided herein, employees participating in job-sharing arrangements will be entitled to all rights and benefits provided for in the Collective Agreement.

### **40.04 Existing Employees Only**

Job sharing will only be permitted when jointly requested by existing employees and those employed in job sharing situations will continue to be members of the bargaining unit and be covered by the Agreement.

#### **40.05 Operational Requirements**

Job-sharing arrangements will only be authorized where operational requirements permit and the provision of services is not adversely affected.

#### **40.06 Qualifications**

Both employees in a job-sharing arrangement must be permanent employees, one of whom is the incumbent of the position to be job-shared. Both employees must share the same job classification/title and be suitably qualified and capable of carrying out the full-time duties and responsibilities of the position to be job-shared.

#### **40.07 Identification of Job Share**

An employee wishing to job share her position has the responsibility of finding an eligible employee willing to enter into the job-sharing arrangement. The two employees requesting approval to implement a job-sharing arrangement will submit the appropriate application form to the immediate management supervisor of the position to be job shared.

#### **40.08 Period of Job Share**

A position will be shared for a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum period of two (2) years. Any extension beyond the two-year (2) maximum term must be mutually acceptable to both employees, the Employer, and the Union. At the end of the job-sharing period, the employees will resume the full-time position they held prior to entering into the job-sharing arrangement.

#### **40.09 Work Schedule Requirements**

Each of the two employees in a job-sharing arrangement will be required to fulfill one-half of the full-time work schedule requirements averaged over a maximum of two (2) complete bi-weekly pay periods, except where a request for a greater averaging period has the prior approval of both the Employer and the Union.

#### **40.10 Service**

Employees will be credited with one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) month's service for each calendar month of the job-sharing arrangement and not be subject to the provisions of Article 1.02(b) of the Agreement. An employee's anniversary and/or service date for the purposes of earning a merit increment, increment in vacation entitlement, etc. will remain unchanged as if the employee were working on a full-time basis.

#### 40.11 Hours of Work

For the purposes of this Agreement, an employee's regular work day or regular work week will be the employee's scheduled hours of work under the job-sharing arrangement. Time worked by an employee in addition to their scheduled hours of work will be compensated in accordance with Articles 39.03 and 39.08.

#### 40.12 Pro-Rating of Benefits

The following benefits will be pro-rated in accordance with this Article:

- (a) **Holidays** - Each employee will be entitled to one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the paid holidays provided for under Article 18 of the Agreement.
- (b) **General Leave** - One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the entitlement provided for under Article 19.
- (c) **Short Term Illness** - One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the entitlement provided for in Article 21, up to a maximum of the equivalent of fifty (50) days at the appropriate full-time salary level.
- (d) **Long Term Disability** - During the job sharing period, Employer and employee contributions to the LTD Fund will continue to be based upon the employee's normal full-time salary. For the purposes of determining an employee's benefits during the job-sharing period, the amount of coverage will be based upon the normal salary the employee is entitled to receive during the job-sharing period. Upon the expiry date of the job-sharing period, as specified in the employee's approved application, the amount of coverage will be based upon the normal full-time salary the employee would be entitled to receive in the position she held prior to entering the job-sharing arrangement.
- (e) **Other Paid Leaves** - One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the entitlement provided for in this Agreement.
- (f) **Group Life Assurance** - Cost sharing of premiums and benefit entitlement will be based on one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the employee's normal full-time salary.
- (g) **Monthly Allowances/Premiums** - One-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) the entitlement provided for in the Agreement.

#### 40.13 Pension

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Agreement, employees shall continue to be covered by the provisions of the applicable pension plan. During the job-sharing period,

an employee's pensionable service will be in accordance with service credits accumulated pursuant to Article 40.10 and her pensionable earnings will be based upon the gross salary received for the period of pensionable service earned.

#### **40.14 Termination of Job Share**

In the event one of the participants vacates the job-shared position (e.g., through termination of employment, appointment to another position or being placed on leave under the LTD plan), the job-sharing arrangement will terminate and the remaining participant will revert to full-time status in the position occupied prior to the job-sharing arrangement, except where mutually acceptable alternative arrangements are approved by both the Employer and the Union.

#### **40.15 Notice**

If either participant or the employer wishes to terminate the job-sharing arrangement prior to its expiry, a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days' written notice shall be required.

#### **40.16 Extension of Job Share**

If the two employees wish to extend their job sharing arrangement beyond the initial period covered by their application or the maximum two-year period provided for in Article 40.08, they shall give a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days' written notice of such intent prior to the expiry of the original job sharing arrangement. In no case shall the total length of the job share period for employees who enter job share arrangements extend beyond a continuous period of four (4) years.

#### **40.17 Incumbents**

For any employee who was in a job sharing arrangement as of May 1, 2001, the maximum four (4) year period will be deemed to have started as of May 1, 2001 for purposes of the restriction in Article 40.16.

#### **40.18 Costs**

The parties agree that, except for the cost of benefits provided for under this Article and/or the Collective Agreement, there shall be no added cost to the Employer directly resulting from any job-sharing arrangement.

## **ARTICLE 41 – AMENDMENT**

**41.01** This Agreement may be amended by the mutual consent of both parties.

## **ARTICLE 42 - CLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFICATION**

### **42.01 Classification and Salary Adjustments**

- (a) When a new or substantially altered classification covered by this Agreement is introduced, the rate of pay shall be subject to negotiations between the Employer and the Union. The Employer may implement a new classification and attach a salary to it, providing that the Union is given ten (10) days' written notice in advance.
- (b) If the parties are unable to agree on the rate of pay for the new or substantially altered classification, the Union may refer the matter to a single Arbitrator who shall determine the new rate of pay.
- (c) The new rate of pay shall be effective on the date agreed to by the parties or the date set by the Arbitrator but, in any event, not earlier than the date of implementation of the classification.

### **42.02 Classification Appeal Procedure**

An employee shall have the right to appeal the classification of the position she occupies. Such an appeal shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Article and shall not be considered a grievance under the Agreement. The provisions of Articles 13.07 and 13.08 shall apply in respect to the appeal procedures set out in this Article.

- (a) If an employee believes that the position she occupies is improperly classified, she shall notify her immediate management supervisor, in writing, of such.
- (b) The Employer shall, upon request, provide the employee with a written statement of duties and responsibilities within thirty (30) days of the request.
- (c) If there is a dispute between the immediate management supervisor and the employee concerning the classification of the position the employee occupies, or if the employee believes there is a conflict between the classification standards or position description and the statement of duties, the employee may initiate a formal appeal in writing to the Director of Human Resources. The Director of Human Resources shall respond in

writing to the employee within thirty (30) days of the receipt of such appeal.

- (d) If the foregoing procedure does not lead to a satisfactory resolution, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the reply from the Director of Human Resources, the matter may be submitted to the Classification Appeal Tribunal which shall make a final binding decision in accordance with the procedures set out in this Article.
- (e) An employee shall have the right of Union representation in respect to any appeal submitted to or proceeding before the Tribunal.
- (f) The effective date of any resulting upward revision in classification shall be the first day of the bi-weekly period immediately following the date of receipt by the Employer of the employee's written appeal submitted pursuant to 42.02 (c).

#### **42.03 Classification Appeal Tribunal**

- (a) A Classification Appeal Tribunal shall be established to make final and binding decisions on a dispute concerning the classification of the position an employee occupies.
- (b) The Classification Appeal Tribunal shall be comprised of three (3) members. One member of the Tribunal shall be nominated by the Employer, and one member shall be nominated by the Union. The third member, who shall be the chairperson, shall be appointed on the mutual agreement of the parties. If the parties fail to appoint a member or if the parties fail to agree upon the chairperson within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Agreement, or within thirty (30) days of a vacancy in the position of chairperson, the chairperson shall be appointed by the Department of Labour.
- (c) The members of the Tribunal shall be appointed for a term of office not exceeding five (5) years. Upon expiration of a member's term of office she may be re-appointed for a term not exceeding five (5) years. The re-appointment of a member or the appointment of her successor shall be in accordance with the provisions set out in 42.03(b) above.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of 42.03 (c), the chairperson of the Tribunal shall be replaced at the request of either party and any other member of the Tribunal shall be replaced at the request of the party nominating that member. Such replacement shall be made in accordance with the provisions of 42.03 (b).

- (e) The Tribunal shall, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an appeal, review the appeal and may hold a hearing on the appeal. If either party to the Agreement requests a hearing, such hearing shall take place in accordance with the procedure set out in this Article.
- (f) The Tribunal shall decide the issue of the proper classification for the position in question based on the existing classification system.
- (g) The Tribunal may determine its own procedure and shall have the power to issue such orders, notices, directives, declarations as it considers necessary, and such other powers conferred upon an arbitrator under the provisions of the *Arbitration Act*.
- (h) The Tribunal shall not:
  - (1) alter any position descriptions and/or classification standards determined by the Employer;
  - (2) entertain an appeal based solely on the grounds of the inadequacy of the pay rates negotiated for the classification assigned to the position occupied by the appellant employee;
  - (3) entertain an appeal in respect to a position that has been considered by it within the previous twelve (12) months, except where the appellant can demonstrate in writing that there has been a substantial change in the duties, responsibilities or requirements of that position.
- (i) A decision of the majority shall be the decision of the Tribunal. Where there is no majority decision, the decision of the chairperson shall be the decision of the Tribunal.
- (j) The Tribunal shall render its decision on a dispute under this Article within sixty (60) days of the matter being submitted to it, or at such later time as may be mutually agreed by the parties.
- (k) The Tribunal shall communicate its decision and reasons therefore in respect to the appeal in writing to the employee, the Employer and the Union.
- (l) The decision of the Tribunal is final and binding on all parties and no employee shall have grievance rights in respect of a decision of the Tribunal.



- (m) The Employer and the Union shall each pay the cost of their Classification Appeal Tribunal nominee, nominated pursuant to Article 42.03 (b), and the Employer and the Union shall share equally in all other costs of the Classification Appeal Tribunal, including the cost of the Chairperson.

## **ARTICLE 43 - SUCCESSOR RIGHTS**

**43.01** Where the Employer sells, leases or transfers or agrees to sell, lease or transfer its business or the operations thereof, or any part of either of them, this Agreement continues in force and is binding upon the purchaser, lessee, or transferee, subject to the *Trade Union Act*.

## **ARTICLE 44 - PREPAID LEAVE PLAN**

### **44.01 Purpose**

The Prepaid Leave Plan is established to afford employees the opportunity of taking a six (6) month to one (1) year leave of absence and to finance the leave through deferral of salary.

### **44.02 Terms of Reference**

- (a) It is the intent of the Union and the Employer that the quality and delivery of service to the public be maintained.
- (b) A suitable replacement for the employee on leave will be obtained where required, and the incumbents filling any position(s) temporarily vacated as a result of such leave will be covered by the Collective Agreement.
- (c) Applications under this Plan will not be unreasonably denied, and any permitted discretion allowed under this Plan will not be unreasonably refused.

### **44.03 Eligibility**

Any permanent employee is eligible to participate in the Plan.

### **44.04 Application**

- (a) An employee must make written application to the Employer at least four (4) calendar months in advance, requesting permission to participate in the Plan. A shorter period of notice may be accepted by the Employer.

Entry date into the Plan for deductions must commence at the beginning of a bi-weekly pay period.

- (b) Written acceptance or denial of the request, with explanation, shall be forwarded to the employee within two (2) calendar months of the written application.

#### **44.05 Leave**

- (a) The period of leave will be for six (6) months to one year, except where the leave of absence is to be taken by the employee for the purpose of permitting the full-time attendance of the employee at a designated educational institution, as defined by subsection 118.6(1) of the *Income Tax Act, R.S.C. 1985, C.1 (5<sup>th</sup> Supp)*, in which case the period of leave will be no less than three (3) months and no more than twelve (12) months.
- (b) On return from leave, the employee will be assigned to her same position or, if such position no longer exists, the employee will be governed by the appropriate provisions of this Agreement.
- (c) After the leave, the employee is required to return to regular employment with the Employer for a period that is not less than the period of the leave.

#### **44.06 Payment Formula and Leave of Absence**

The payment of salary, benefits and the timing of the period of leave shall be as follows:

- (a) During the deferral period of the Plan, preceding the period of the leave, the employee will be paid a reduced percentage of her salary. The remaining percentage of salary will be deferred, and this accumulated amount plus the interest earned shall be retained for the employee by the Employer to finance the period of leave.
- (b) The deferred amounts, when received, are considered to be salary or wages and as such are subject to withholding for income taxes, Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance at that time.
- (c) The calculation of interest under the terms of this Plan shall be done monthly (not in advance). The interest paid shall be calculated by averaging the interest rates in effect on the last day of each calendar month for: a true savings account, a one (1) year term deposit, a three (3) year term deposit and a five (5) year term deposit. The rates for each of the accounts identified shall be those quoted by the financial institution maintaining the deferred account. Interest shall be based upon the

average daily balance of the account and credited to the employee's account on the first day of the following calendar month.

- (d) A yearly statement of the amount standing in the employee's credit will be sent to the employee by the Employer.
- (e) The maximum length of the deferral period will be six (6) years and the maximum deferred amount will be 33-1/3% of salary. The maximum length of any contract under the Plan will be seven (7) years.
- (f) The employee may arrange for any length of deferral period in accordance with the provisions set out under Article 44.06(e).

#### **44.07 Benefits**

- (a) While the employee is enrolled in the Plan prior to the period of leave, any benefits related to salary level shall be structured according to the salary the employee would have received had she not been enrolled in the Plan.
- (b) An employee's benefits will be maintained by the employer during her leave of absence; however, the premium costs of all such benefits shall be paid by the employee during the leave.
- (c) While on leave, any benefits related to salary level shall be structured according to the salary the employee would have received in the year prior to taking the leave had she not been enrolled in the Plan.
- (d) Pension deductions shall be continued during the period of leave. The period of leave shall be a period of pensionable service and service.
- (e) Pension deductions shall be made on the salary the employee would have received had she not entered the Plan or gone on leave.
- (f) Sick leave and vacation credits will not be earned during the period of leave nor will sick leave be available during such period.

#### **44.08 Withdrawal**

- (a) An employee may withdraw from the Plan in unusual or extenuating circumstances, such as, but not limited to, financial hardship, serious illness or disability, family death or serious illness, or termination of employment. Withdrawal must be submitted in writing, detailing the reason(s) therefor, as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the leave.

- (b) In the event of withdrawal the employee shall be paid a lump sum adjustment equal to any monies deferred plus accrued interest. Repayment shall be made as soon as possible within sixty (60) calendar days of withdrawal from the Plan.
- (c) An employee who is laid off during the deferral period will be required to withdraw from the Plan.
- (d) Should an employee die while participating in the Plan, any monies accumulated plus interest accrued at the time of death shall be paid to the employee's estate as soon as possible within two (2) bi-weekly pay periods upon notice to the Employer.

#### **44.09 Written Contract**

- (a) All employees will be required to sign the approved contract before enrolling in the Plan. The contract will set out all other terms of the Plan in accordance with the provisions set out herein.
- (b) Once entered into, the contract provisions concerning the percentage of salary deferred and the period of leave may be amended by mutual agreement between the employee and Employer.

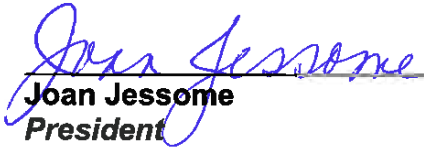
### **ARTICLE 45 - TERM OF AGREEMENT\***


**45.01\*** The provisions of Appendix 3 including overtime shall be paid retroactive to November 1, 2012. Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement or in the Memorandum of Agreement on Transition (Memorandum of Agreement #3) all other provisions of this Agreement shall become effective on the date of ratification of the Agreement and shall remain in force for the life of the agreement except Article 6.03 which shall remain in full force and effect until a new agreement is signed.

**45.02\*** Subject to Article 45.01, this Agreement shall be in effect for a term beginning from November 1, 2012 and ending October 31, 2014. After October 31, 2014, this Agreement shall be automatically renewed thereafter for successive periods of twelve (12) months unless either party requests the negotiation of a new agreement by giving written notice to the other party not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the expiration of this Agreement or any renewal thereof.

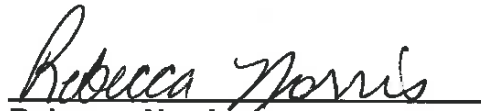
**45.03\*** Members of the bargaining unit who have resigned or retired since October 31, 2012 will have thirty (30) days from the date of signing of this agreement to apply in writing for the retroactive wage increase.

Signed on behalf of the Union:

  
Joan Jessome  
President


  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

Signed on behalf of the Employer:

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of October, 2014.

## APPENDIX 1

### EXPEDITED ARBITRATION - RULES OF PROCEDURE\*

1. A single arbitrator shall be appointed to decide the grievance.
- 2.\* The following persons shall serve as a panel of single arbitrators:

Susan Ashley  
Jan McKenzie  
Lorraine Lafferty

The above arbitrators shall be contacted in advance and advised of the parties' expectations pursuant to these Rules of Procedure. Should any arbitrator not be willing to adhere to the requirements of this process their name will be removed from the above list and the parties will agree on a substitute in the roster.

3. The arbitrators shall be appointed on a rotating basis, in the sequence in which their names appear on the above list.
4. The arbitrator, in consultation with the parties, shall convene a hearing of the grievance not later than forty (40) days from being appointed. If the arbitrator is not agreeable or available to commence the hearing within this time period, the arbitrator whose turn is next in the rotation shall be selected, and so on, until one of the arbitrators in the rotation is available.
5. At least ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing the parties and/or their representatives shall meet for the following purposes:
  - to exchange copies of any documents that either party intends to rely on in the hearing;
  - to establish and attempt to agree on the facts relevant to the grievance;
  - to exchange copies of any precedents and authorities; and
  - to engage in discussions regarding the possible settlement of the grievance.
6. Should a dispute arise between the parties regarding compliance with the obligations outlined in paragraph 5 the issue in dispute may be referred for immediate and binding resolution to the arbitrator. This may be done by conference call between the arbitrator and the parties.

7. At least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing date the parties shall forward to the arbitrator the collective agreement, a copy of the grievance, any agreed statement of facts and any other documents or materials agreed upon by the parties.
8. The arbitration hearing shall be an informal and accelerated process. To this end, the following procedures shall be in effect:
  - The hearing shall be completed within a single day, within the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm. At the commencement of the hearing the parties and the arbitrator shall attempt to agree upon the allocation of time and if agreement cannot be reached the arbitrator shall decide upon such allocation.
  - The parties shall make every reasonable effort to minimize the use of witnesses and to limit representations to issues directly related to the substance of the individual grievance. Whenever practicable, the parties shall stipulate facts not in dispute rather than establishing such facts through the evidence of witnesses.
  - Every reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that the grievance is addressed on its own merits, within the context of the particular circumstances of the individual case.
  - The arbitrator shall have the permission of the parties to take an activist role and to direct that issues be addressed, or not addressed, in the hearing in accordance with his or her determination as to its relevance to the outcome.
9. The decision of the arbitrator on the merits of the grievance may be rendered verbally at the immediate conclusion of the hearing, or, in any event, within two (2) days following the conclusion of the hearing. The arbitrator may remain seized of the grievance to determine any issues arising from the implementation of his or her decision.
10. The arbitrator may provide brief written reasons for the decision, however, these must be issued within ten (10) days of rendering the decision.
11. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding on the parties, however, the parties agree that decisions issued through this process apply only to the individual grievance decided, have no value as precedent and that they shall not be referred to in any other proceedings under this collective agreement or otherwise.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **HEALTH AND DENTAL PLANS**

- (a) Employees who are presently covered by benefit plans shall continue to be covered by the terms of the plan which are hereby incorporated into this collective agreement, unless the Union and the Employer agree otherwise.
- (b) Employees not presently covered by a benefit plan shall be brought under the terms of one of the existing plans as determined by mutual agreement of the Employer and the Union.



### APPENDIX 3

#### ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF CLASSIFICATIONS

#### & CORRESPONDING PAY PLAN

<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>PAY GRADE</b>
Cardiovascular Associate	NUR 16
Case Management Coordinator	NUR 12
Clinical Nurse Educator	NUR 15
Community Mental Health Nurse	NUR 11
Day Treatment Case Coordinator	NUR 8
Diabetes Nurse Educator	NUR 7
Enterosotomal Therapist	NUR 12
Grad Nurse non registered	NUR1
Group Leader/Critical Care Program	NUR 14
HIV Infection Control Nurse	NUR 12
Infection Control Officer	NUR 12
Nurse Educator (Collaborative)	NUR 17
Nurse Practitioner	NUR 19
Nurse Practitioner Pre CA	NUR 16
Nurse Rehabilitation Counsellor	NUR 6
Nursing Informatics Coordinator	NUR 16
Nursing Informatics Educator	NUR 12
Nursing Informatics Nurse	NUR 6
Nursing Informatics Trainer	NUR 8
Nursing Instructor 1/2	NUR 9
Nursing Instructor 3	NUR 11
Nursing Instructor 4	NUR 15
Occupational Health Nurse	NUR 10
Program Unit Nurse 1	NUR 7
Program Unit Nurse 1	NUR 9
Program Unit Nurse 2	NUR 10
Program Unit Nurse 2	NUR 13
Project Nurse	NUR 10
Public Health Nurse	NUR 9
Registered Nurse	NUR 6
Staffing/MIS Manager	NUR 7
Transplant Coordinator	NUR 8
Trauma Registrar	NUR 10

**PAY PLAN\***  
**Rates of Pay - November 1, 2012**

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr		
			1	2	3	4	5	6			
NUR	1										
Grad Nurse non registered		75	\$28.3351	\$29.1793	\$30.1448	\$31.2309	\$32.4364	\$33.5717	\$34.7467	Nov 1/12	
			\$55,253.53	\$56,899.62	\$58,782.52	\$60,900.40	\$63,251.14	\$65,464.93	\$67,756.03	approx annual	
NUR	2										
		75	\$28.7131	\$29.5563	\$30.5232	\$31.6083	\$32.8147	\$33.9632	\$35.1519	Nov 1/12	
			\$55,990.57	\$57,634.85	\$59,520.17	\$61,636.24	\$63,988.49	\$66,228.09	\$68,546.07	approx annual	
NUR	3										
		75	\$30.0274	\$30.9941	\$32.0784	\$33.2845	\$34.4495		\$35.6552	Nov 1/12	
			\$58,553.29	\$60,438.30	\$62,552.85	\$64,904.81	\$67,176.59		\$69,527.65	approx annual	
NUR	4										
		75	\$30.8847	\$31.7298	\$32.6945	\$33.7803	\$34.9626		\$36.1864	Nov 1/12	
			\$60,225.12	\$61,873.04	\$63,754.42	\$65,871.69	\$68,177.20		\$70,563.40	approx annual	
NUR	5										
		75	\$30.8847	\$31.7298	\$32.6945	\$33.7803	\$34.9876	\$36.2121	\$37.4795	Nov 1/12	
			\$60,225.12	\$61,873.04	\$63,754.42	\$65,871.69	\$68,225.77	\$70,613.67	\$73,085.15	approx annual	
NUR	6										
Registered Nurse			\$31.7298	\$32.6945	\$33.7803	\$34.9876	\$36.2368	\$37.5052	\$38.8179	Nov 1/12	
Nurse Rehabilitation Counsellor		75	\$61,873.04	\$63,754.42	\$65,871.69	\$68,225.77	\$70,661.90	\$73,135.07	\$75,694.80	approx annual	
Nursing Informatics Nurse											
NUR	7										
Staffing/MIS Manager			\$32.6945	\$33.7803	\$34.9881	\$36.2367	\$37.4914	\$38.8036	\$40.1618	Nov 1/12	
Diabetes Nurse Educator		75	\$63,754.28	\$65,871.59	\$68,226.80	\$70,661.57	\$73,108.23	\$75,667.02	\$78,315.51	approx annual	
Program Unit Nurse 1											

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr	
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
NUR	8									
Transplant Coordinator			\$34,987.6	\$36,236.8	\$37,491.4	\$38,746.0	\$40,102.1	\$41,505.7		Nov 1/12
Nursing Informatics Trainer		75	\$68,225.77	\$70,661.90	\$73,108.34	\$75,554.77	\$78,199.19	\$80,936.18		approx annual
Day Treatment Case Coordinator										
NUR	9									
Public Health Nurse			\$35,030.0	\$36,193.3	\$37,487.2	\$38,825.0	\$40,169.4	\$41,575.3	\$43,030.5	Nov 1/12
Program Unit Nurse 1		70	\$63,754.54	\$65,871.69	\$68,226.82	\$70,661.36	\$73,108.37	\$75,667.16	\$78,315.56	approx annual
Nursing Instructor 1/2		75	\$68,308.43	\$70,576.81	\$73,100.16	\$75,708.60	\$78,330.40	\$81,071.96	\$83,909.52	approx annual
NUR	10									
Occupational Health Nurse			\$36,236.8	\$37,491.4	\$38,746.0	\$40,000.6	\$41,400.7	\$42,849.6		Nov 1/12
Trauma Registrar		75	\$70,661.90	\$73,108.34	\$75,554.77	\$78,001.20	\$80,731.24	\$83,556.84		approx annual
Project Nurse										
Program Unit Nurse 2										
NUR	11									
Community Mental Health Nurse			\$37,486.5	\$38,825.0	\$40,169.4	\$41,513.4	\$42,966.5	\$44,470.3		Nov 1/12
Nursing Instructor 3		75	\$73,098.65	\$75,708.60	\$78,330.36	\$80,951.21	\$83,784.51	\$86,717.17		approx annual
NUR	12									
Infection Control Officer			\$37,491.6	\$38,746.0	\$40,000.6	\$41,256.6	\$42,700.6	\$44,195.0		Nov 1/12
HIV Infection Control Nurse		70	\$68,234.73	\$70,517.78	\$72,801.12	\$75,087.00	\$77,715.05	\$80,434.95		approx annual
Enterosomal Therapist		75	\$73,108.64	\$75,554.77	\$78,001.20	\$80,450.36	\$83,266.12	\$86,180.30		approx annual
Nursing Informatics Educator										
Case Management Coordinator										
NUR	13									
Program Unit Nurse 2		70	\$38,825.0	\$40,169.4	\$41,513.4	\$42,857.8	\$44,357.8	\$45,910.4		Nov 1/12
			\$70,661.36	\$73,108.34	\$75,554.47	\$78,001.16	\$80,731.20	\$83,556.79		approx annual

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr	
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
NUR	14									
Group Leader/Critical Care Program		75	\$38,746.0	\$40,000.6	\$41,256.8	\$43,154.7	\$44,665.2	\$46,228.4	\$46,228.4	Nov 1/12
			\$75,554.77	\$78,001.20	\$80,450.66	\$84,151.65	\$87,097.13	\$90,145.35	\$90,145.35	approx annual
NUR	15									
Clinical Nurse Educator		70	\$40,169.6	\$41,513.4	\$42,857.8	\$44,203.5	\$45,750.8	\$47,352.0	\$47,352.0	Nov 1/12
Nursing Instructor 4		75	\$73,108.76	\$75,554.43	\$78,001.22	\$80,450.43	\$83,266.41	\$86,180.69	\$86,180.69	approx annual
			\$78,330.81	\$80,951.17	\$83,572.73	\$86,196.89	\$89,214.01	\$92,336.45	\$92,336.45	approx annual
NUR	16									
Nurse Practitioner Pre CA		75	\$40,547.4	\$41,512.5	\$42,597.2	\$43,804.7	\$45,053.9	\$46,630.7	\$48,262.8	Nov 1/12
Nursing Informatics Coordinator Cardiovascular Associate			\$79,067.41	\$80,949.40	\$83,064.55	\$85,419.23	\$87,855.07	\$90,929.99	\$94,112.54	approx annual
NUR	17									
Nurse Educator (Collaborative)		70	\$41,513.5	\$42,857.8	\$44,203.5	\$46,237.2	\$47,855.6	\$49,530.6	\$49,530.6	Nov 1/12
		75	\$75,554.56	\$78,001.14	\$80,450.43	\$84,151.82	\$87,097.13	\$90,145.53	\$90,145.53	approx annual
			\$80,951.32	\$83,572.65	\$86,196.89	\$90,162.66	\$93,318.36	\$96,584.50	\$96,584.50	approx annual
NUR	18									
		70	\$43,443.4	\$44,477.6	\$45,639.8	\$46,933.8	\$48,272.0	\$49,961.5	\$51,710.1	Nov 1/12
			\$79,066.94	\$80,949.23	\$83,064.41	\$85,419.53	\$87,854.92	\$90,929.85	\$94,112.39	approx annual
NUR	19									
Nurse Practitioner		75	\$44,506.5	\$45,882.9	\$47,302.3	\$48,765.2	\$50,273.0	\$52,032.6	\$53,853.7	Nov 1/12
			\$86,787.79	\$89,471.55	\$92,239.42	\$95,092.10	\$98,032.34	\$101,463.48	\$105,014.70	approx annual

### Rates of Pay - November 1, 2013

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr	
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
<hr/>										
NUR	1									
Grad Nurse non registered		75	\$29.1852	\$30.0547	\$31.0492	\$32.1679	\$33.4095	\$34.5789	\$35.7891	Nov 1/13
			\$56,911.13	\$58,606.61	\$60,545.99	\$62,727.41	\$65,148.68	\$67,428.88	\$69,788.71	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	2									
		75	\$29.5745	\$30.4430	\$31.4389	\$32.5566	\$33.7991	\$34.9821	\$36.2064	Nov 1/13
			\$57,670.29	\$59,363.90	\$61,305.78	\$63,485.32	\$65,908.15	\$68,214.93	\$70,602.46	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	3									
		75	\$30.9282	\$31.9239	\$33.0408	\$34.2831	\$35.4830		\$36.7249	Nov 1/13
			\$60,309.89	\$62,251.45	\$64,429.44	\$66,851.95	\$69,191.89		\$71,613.48	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	4									
		75	\$31.8112	\$32.6817	\$33.6754	\$34.7937	\$36.0115		\$37.2720	Nov 1/13
			\$62,031.88	\$63,729.23	\$65,667.05	\$67,847.84	\$70,222.52		\$72,680.30	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	5									
		75	\$31.8112	\$32.6817	\$33.6754	\$34.7937	\$36.0372	\$37.2985	\$38.6039	Nov 1/13
			\$62,031.88	\$63,729.23	\$65,667.05	\$67,847.84	\$70,272.54	\$72,732.08	\$75,277.70	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	6									
Registered Nurse			\$32.6817	\$33.6754	\$34.7937	\$36.0372	\$37.3239	\$38.6303	\$39.9824	Nov 1/13
Nurse Rehabilitation Counsellor		75	\$63,729.23	\$65,667.05	\$67,847.84	\$70,272.54	\$72,781.76	\$75,329.12	\$77,965.64	approx annual
<hr/>										
NUR	7									
Staffing/MIS Manager			\$33.6754	\$34.7937	\$36.0377	\$37.3238	\$38.6162	\$39.9677	\$41.3666	Nov 1/13
Diabetes Nurse Educator Program Unit Nurse 1		75	\$65,667.03	\$67,847.72	\$70,273.52	\$72,781.41	\$75,301.59	\$77,937.02	\$80,664.87	approx annual

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr	
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
NUR	8									
Transplant Coordinator			\$36.0372	\$37.3239	\$38.6162	\$39.9084	\$41.3052	\$42.7509		Nov 1/13
Nursing Informatics Trainer		75	\$70,272.54	\$72,781.76	\$75,301.59	\$77,821.41	\$80,545.16	\$83,364.27		approx annual
Day Treatment Case Coordinator										
NUR	9									
Public Health Nurse			\$36.0809	\$37.2791	\$38.6118	\$39.9897	\$41.3745	\$42.8226	\$44.3214	Nov 1/13
Program Unit Nurse 1		70	\$65,667.17	\$67,847.84	\$70,273.62	\$72,781.20	\$75,301.62	\$77,937.18	\$80,665.02	approx annual
Nursing Instructor 1/2		75	\$70,357.69	\$72,694.12	\$75,293.16	\$77,979.86	\$80,680.31	\$83,504.12	\$86,426.81	approx annual
NUR	10									
Occupational Health Nurse			\$37.3239	\$38.6162	\$39.9084	\$41.2006	\$42.6427	\$44.1351		Nov 1/13
Trauma Registrar		75	\$72,781.76	\$75,301.59	\$77,821.41	\$80,341.24	\$83,153.18	\$86,063.54		approx annual
Project Nurse										
NUR	11									
Community Mental Health Nurse			\$38.6111	\$39.9897	\$41.3745	\$42.7588	\$44.2555	\$45.8045		Nov 1/13
Nursing Instructor 3		75	\$75,291.61	\$77,979.86	\$80,680.27	\$83,379.75	\$86,298.04	\$89,318.68		approx annual
NUR	12									
Infection Control Officer			\$38.6164	\$39.9084	\$41.2006	\$42.4943	\$43.9816	\$45.5209		Nov 1/13
HIV Infection Control Nurse		70	\$70,281.77	\$72,633.32	\$74,985.15	\$77,339.61	\$80,046.50	\$82,848.00		approx annual
Enterosotomal Therapist		75	\$75,301.90	\$77,821.41	\$80,341.24	\$82,863.87	\$85,764.11	\$88,765.71		approx annual
NUR	13									
Program Unit Nurse 2			\$39.9897	\$41.3745	\$42.7588	\$44.1435	\$45.6885	\$47.2877		Nov 1/13
		70	\$72,781.20	\$75,301.59	\$77,821.10	\$80,341.20	\$83,153.14	\$86,063.50		approx annual

Pay	Grade	bi-weekly hrs	Step						25 yr	
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
NUR	14									
Group Leader/Critical Care			\$39,908.4	\$41,200.6	\$42,494.5	\$44,449.3	\$46,005.2	\$47,615.3		Nov 1/13
		75	\$77,821.41	\$80,341.24	\$82,864.18	\$86,676.20	\$89,710.04	\$92,849.71		approx annual
NUR	15									
Clinical Nurse Educator			\$41,374.7	\$42,758.8	\$44,143.5	\$45,529.6	\$47,123.3	\$48,772.6		Nov 1/13
Nursing Instructor 4		70	\$75,302.02	\$77,821.06	\$80,341.26	\$82,863.95	\$85,764.40	\$88,766.11		approx annual
		75	\$80,680.74	\$83,379.71	\$86,079.92	\$88,782.80	\$91,890.43	\$95,106.55		approx annual
NUR	16									
Nurse Practitioner Pre CA			\$41,763.8	\$42,757.9	\$43,875.1	\$45,118.8	\$46,405.5	\$48,029.7	\$49,710.7	Nov 1/13
Nursing Informatics Coordinator Cardiovascular Associate		75	\$81,439.43	\$83,377.88	\$85,556.49	\$87,981.81	\$90,490.72	\$93,657.89	\$96,935.92	approx annual
NUR	17									
Nurse Educator			\$42,758.9	\$44,143.5	\$45,529.6	\$47,624.4	\$49,291.3	\$51,016.5		Nov 1/13
		70	\$77,821.20	\$80,341.18	\$82,863.95	\$86,676.37	\$89,710.05	\$92,849.90		approx annual
		75	\$83,379.86	\$86,079.83	\$88,782.80	\$92,867.54	\$96,117.91	\$99,482.03		approx annual
NUR	18									
			\$44,746.7	\$45,811.9	\$47,009.0	\$48,341.8	\$49,720.1	\$51,460.3	\$53,261.4	Nov 1/13
		70	\$81,438.95	\$83,377.71	\$85,556.34	\$87,982.12	\$90,490.57	\$93,657.74	\$96,935.76	approx annual
NUR	19									
Nurse Practitioner			\$45,841.7	\$47,259.4	\$48,721.4	\$50,228.2	\$51,781.2	\$53,593.6	\$55,469.3	Nov 1/13
		75	\$89,391.43	\$92,155.70	\$95,006.61	\$97,944.86	\$100,973.31	\$104,507.38	\$108,165.14	approx annual

## **MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT\***

Memorandum of Agreement #1	Sick Leave Banks*
Memorandum of Agreement #2	Banked Vacation
Memorandum of Agreement #3	Transition
Memorandum of Agreement #4	Permanent Relief Nurse
Memorandum of Agreement #5	Occupational Health and Safety Audit Process and Training
Memorandum of Agreement #6	Recognition of Previous Experience
Memorandum of Agreement #7	Specialty Nurse Practitioner (SNP)
Memorandum of Agreement #8	New Arbitration Process for S.T.I. Benefit Grievance
Memorandum of Agreement #9	Devolution of Continuing Care from the Department of Health to the District Health Authorities
Memorandum of Agreement #10	Attendance Support – Expedited Procedure
Memorandum of Agreement #11	Mental Health Commission Steering Committee*



## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #1

### Sick Leave Banks\*

#### 1. Pre-existing Sick Leave Banks

Employees who have credits in their sick leave banks as of the signing date of this Agreement shall be entitled to maintain those sick leave banks for use in accordance with this Memorandum of Agreement.

#### 2. New and Existing Sick Leave Banks

##### Continuing Accumulation in the Banks\*

Effective on April 1 in each year, any permanent employee who has used seven (7) or fewer days of General Leave in the preceding twelve month period, as provided for in Article 19.11, will be credited with five (5) days to their sick leave bank. The amounts credited to the banks of permanent employees on job share, permanent part time employees, employee on leaves of absence, new hires and employees who change their hourly designation will be credited on a pro-rated basis based on their hours worked during the preceding twelve month period.

#### 3. Use of Credits in Sick Leave Banks

Employees who have sick leave credits in their banks can utilize them for the following purposes:

##### (a) To Cover STI/LTD Gap

Employees may use any sick bank credits to cover off any period between the end of Short-Term Illness Leave (“STI”) entitlement and the date on which they would normally become eligible for LTD. Employees who are not covered by a long term disability plan or who have time in their sick leave bank may use their sick leave banks for the period for which they are sick after the one hundred (100) days for Short-Term Illness has been used, until their sick bank is exhausted. The employee’s sick bank shall be reduced by one day for each day of entitlement under this section.


##### (b) To “Top Up” STI


Employees may use these credits to top up Short-Term Illness benefits. For each day on which the employee is in receipt of Short-Term Illness the employee may use her sick bank to “top up” her Short-Term Illness benefit to one hundred per cent (100%) of salary. Twenty-five (25%) percent of the day shall be deducted from the sick bank for each twenty-five per cent (25%) “top-up”.

(c) **WCB Earnings Replacement Supplement**

Employees may use these credits to supplement the earnings replacement benefit paid by the Workers' Compensation Board equal to the difference between the earnings replacement benefit received by the employee under the Act and the employee's net pre-accident earnings. The percentage amount required to achieve the top-up to pre-net accident earnings shall be deducted from the sick bank for each day of the supplement.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**


  
Joan Jessome  
President


  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #2


### Banked Vacation

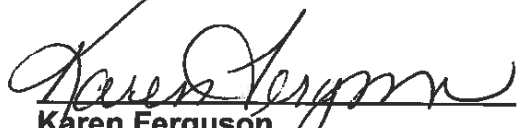
#### **THE PARTIES HEREBY agree as follows:**

1. All vacation credits earned but not taken under past terms and conditions of employment and collective agreements with any of the predecessor Employers shall be considered “banked vacation credits”.
2. Within sixty (60) days of the signing of this Agreement, the Employer shall notify all eligible employees of the number of days of their banked vacation credits and the Employer shall notify the eligible employees thereafter on January 31 of each year for the duration of this Memorandum of Agreement.
3. An employee with sufficient banked vacation credits shall take a minimum of five (5) days of extra vacation credits each year until her banked vacation credits are exhausted.
4. An employee with less than five (5) days of banked vacation credits shall exhaust all their banked vacation credits by the end of the vacation year.
5. Notwithstanding paragraphs 3 and 4 above, with the written consent of the Employer, an employee may take more than five (5) days per year.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 3 and 4 above, with the written consent of the Employer, an employee may carry over banked vacation credits from one year to the next.
7. Employees must schedule vacation, including the five (5) extra days of vacation, in accordance with Article 17.
8. Vacation credits earned in the present year shall only be scheduled after all the banked vacation credits have been scheduled.

Signed on behalf of the Union:

  
Joan Jessome  
President


  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

Signed on behalf of the Employer:

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #3

### Transition

#### **1. Incumbency Protection**

Upon implementation of the new pay plan, employees who would otherwise incur a salary reduction, shall be granted "PIO" (present incumbency only) status and may advance, through the granting of increments in accordance with the collective agreement, to the maximum salary for the position and applicable classification.


#### **2. Car Allowance**


An employee who was previously employed by the Nova Scotia Hospital or Public Health Services or Drug Dependency Services and, as of February 19, 2001, was employed in a position where she had elected to receive a car allowance pursuant to Article 29.04 of the agreement she was then covered by, shall have the option to continue to be reimbursed on that basis. This option shall apply only to the incumbent in the position and only for as long as the incumbent remains in the position. The option shall terminate if at any time the employee in any subsequent year elects to be reimbursed on a straight mileage basis.

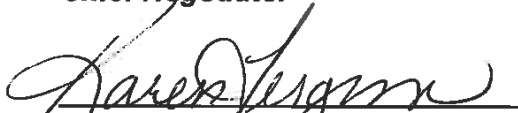
#### **3. Hours of Work**

All positions which, as of February 19, 2001, have hours of work different from those set out in Article 14.01 shall have such hours continued for all incumbents in the position as well as future employees who occupy such positions.

Signed on behalf of the Union:

  
Joan Jessome  
President

  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

Signed on behalf of the Employer:

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #4

### Permanent Relief Nurse

#### 1. Permanent Relief Nurse

There shall be recognized a new category of employee known as "Permanent Relief Nurse".

#### 2. Purpose

A Permanent Relief Nurse shall be used for the purpose of meeting unpredictable operational requirements, or replacing other staff who are absent for periods not exceeding one month. Except for these circumstances, Permanent Relief Nurses shall not be utilized as an alternative to regular full-time and regular part-time staff.

#### 3. Entitlements

Except as provided for in this Memorandum of Agreement, a Permanent Relief Nurse shall be entitled to all the benefits and shall be covered under all the provisions of the collective agreement pertaining to a "permanent employee".

#### 4. Filling of Vacancies

Vacancies for the position of Permanent Relief Nurse shall be filled in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 10 or, where applicable, Article 32 of the collective agreement. Where the position is posted the notice shall indicate the applicable unit groupings.

#### 5. Termination of Appointment

In the event that a position as a Permanent Relief Nurse is discontinued, the employee appointed pursuant to this Agreement shall retain her status as a permanent employee and the matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Technological Change in accordance with Article 32 of the collective agreement.

#### 6. Multiple Unit Assignments

A nurse working in the position of Permanent Relief Nurse may be assigned to work at various locations within defined unit groupings as determined by the Employer.

#### 7. Compensation

The hourly rate of pay for a Permanent Relief Nurse shall be based on the rate in effect for the classification of Staff Nurse, with the following additional supplement:

- (a) During the first six months in the position - an additional \$0.50 per hour;
- (b) After six months in the position - an additional \$0.75 per hour;
- (c) After one year in the position - an additional \$1.00 per hour;
- (d) After two years in the position - an additional \$1.25 per hour.

The above supplements shall be payable only during such time as the nurse is assigned to and performing the duties of Permanent Relief Nurse.

## **8. Posting of Shift Schedules**

The provisions of Article 14.13 of the collective agreement shall not apply to a Permanent Relief Nurse. Work schedules for a Permanent Relief Nurse shall be posted at least two (2) weeks in advance of the period covered by the schedule and the schedule shall be for a minimum of two (2) weeks. The Employer shall make every reasonable effort not to change shifts. If the Employer changes the shift schedule within twenty four (24) hours of the shift, the employee(s) affected shall be entitled to overtime compensation for that shift. The Employer must inform employees of the shift changes made to the posted schedules.

## **9. Limitation on Utilization**

The number of Permanent Relief Nurse positions created pursuant to this Agreement shall be as determined by the Employer, but in no case shall exceed a total of one hundred (100) FTEs. This number may be increased by mutual agreement between the parties.

## **10. Effective Date**

This Agreement shall become effective upon the signing of the collective agreement between the parties and shall remain in force for the life of that agreement.

## **11. Review and Amendment**

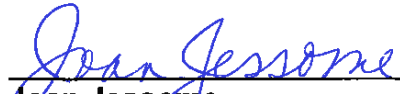
This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement in writing of the parties. The parties will, at periodic intervals over the life of this Agreement, meet to review issues which may arise regarding its implementation and administration.


## **12. Amendments to the Collective Agreement**

So long as this Agreement remains in force it shall be considered as being incorporated into and forming part of the collective agreement between the parties.




Signed on behalf of the Union:

  
Joan Jessome  
President


  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

Signed on behalf of the Employer:

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of October, 2014.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #5**

### **Occupational Health and Safety Audit Process and Training**

#### **Information**

The Union shall, upon request to the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (the "Committee"), be provided with a current list of all Team members and their contact information.

The Union shall, upon request to any Work Place Safety Team (the "Team"), be provided with the following:

1. A current copy of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for each Team;
2. A copy of any Minutes from the meetings of each Team;
3. Notice of the times of any scheduled meetings of the Team.

#### **Access to Meetings**

A Union staff person and/or a person designated by the Employer shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (the "Committee") or Team, upon request and with the agreement of the respective body.

#### **Review of Process**

The parties agree that the Joint Occupational Health and Safety committee for the QEII site will conduct a review of the Work Place Safety Teams to assess whether they are functioning effectively in the performance of their terms of reference and sections 30 and 31 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The review will include but not be restricted to the following:

1. the relationship of each Team of the Committee and vice versa;
2. an assessment of the level of training and awareness of each Team member and how to have those needs fulfilled; and
3. an assessment of the current resources and training opportunities to identify areas that need to be addressed to ensure each Team member can effectively perform their role.

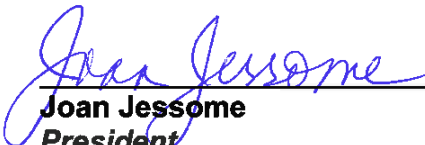
This review shall be completed within 12 months with reports to the Committee, the Union, the Safety Department and the Director of the portfolios involved on a quarterly basis. Reports shall include recommendation for changes to the system or initiatives to be taken.

**Training**

The Employer shall ensure that each existing or new member of a Team or the Committee receives adequate training consisting of at least:

1. Two days of training, in the first year following the naming of the member of a Team or Committee;
2. One day of training in each of the subsequent years that the member serves on the Team or Committee.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joan Jessome**  
*President*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda Power**  
*Chief Negotiator*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Karen Ferguson**  
*Bargaining Committee*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rebecca Norris**  
*Bargaining Committee*

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chris Power**  
*President and CEO*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy MacNeil**  
*Vice President, People*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Collins**  
*Manager, Labour Relations*

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this <sup>24</sup> day of *OCTOBER*, 2014.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #6**


**Recognition of Previous Experience**


In exercising its discretion pursuant to Articles 34.03 and 34.12 the Employer shall recognize previous satisfactory recent nursing experience with an employer other than Capital Health. At a minimum previous experience shall only be considered as satisfactory and recent where the RN has not been away from nursing for more than three consecutive years.

Prior experience with employers other than Capital Health shall only be considered where the RN in question provides the documentation and other information necessary to establish that the experience in question was satisfactory and to substantiate the length of experience being put forward for recognition.

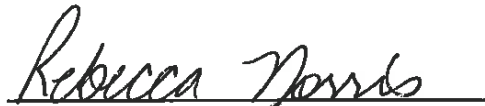
For the purpose of claiming experience as of April 1, 2008 with employers other than Capital Health for the 25 year increment, current RN's will have 90 days from the date of ratification to provide satisfactory proof of prior experience. An extension to this time period may be granted where an employee establishes to the satisfaction of the employer that the failure to substantiate their claim in a timely manner was due to circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**

  
**Joan Jessome**  
**President**

  
**Linda Power**  
**Chief Negotiator**

  
**Karen Ferguson**  
**Bargaining Committee**

  
**Rebecca Norris**  
**Bargaining Committee**

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
**Chris Power**  
**President and CEO**

  
**Kathy MacNeil**  
**Vice President, People**

  
**David Collins**  
**Manager, Labour Relations**

**DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #7**

**Specialty Nurse Practitioner**

It is agreed that the new classification of Specialty Nurse Practitioner (SNP) will be established within the Nurses bargaining unit. It is also agreed that certain specific terms and conditions of employment outside of the existing collective agreement are necessary in order to recognize this unique role. The terms and conditions of employment for SNP will be in accordance with the collective agreement except where modified as follows;

**1) Article 15 - Overtime**


SNP shall be exempt from OT and will be entitled to 5 days leave with pay pursuant to 15.01 (b). Any authorized OT hours which may exceed 37.5 in a calendar year (April to April prorated) will be credited as banked time on an hour for hour basis. Time off will be granted subject to operational requirements and will not be unreasonably denied. Note; Article 15.10 shall not apply.


At such point as the hours may exceed 37.5, the employee will be responsible to provide an accounting of hours to their immediate management supervisor.

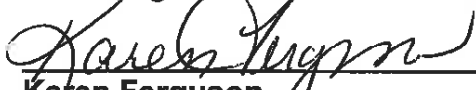
**2) Article 9 - Appointment**

Employees appointed permanently to the SNP position subsequent to the signing of this agreement, will be placed into the ERN payscale. At such time as a Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) is confirmed, the employee will appointed to the next highest step in the SNP scale. It is understood that such appointment will not be later than 3 months.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**

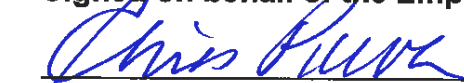
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joan Jessome**  
**President**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda Power**  
**Chief Negotiator**

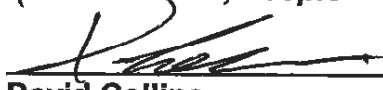
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Karen Ferguson**  
**Bargaining Committee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rebecca Norris**  
**Bargaining Committee**

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chris Power**  
**President and CEO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy MacNeil**  
**Vice President, People**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Collins**  
**Manager, Labour Relations**

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #8**

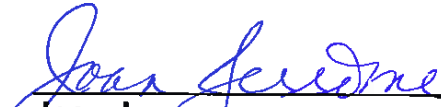
**New Arbitration Process for S.T.I. Benefit Grievance**


The parties agree to create a new arbitration process for S.T.I. benefit grievances, wherein grievances are referred to the Occupational Health Department for review by the Manager of Occupational Health or designate. If the matter is not resolved following the review, the matter may be referred to expedited arbitration pursuant to Appendix 1. For purposes of expedited arbitration pursuant to this article only, the following persons shall serve as arbitrator on a rotating basis:


- (i) Bill Kydd,
- (ii) Bruce Outhouse.

In the event neither of these arbitrators is available to hear the matter within a reasonable period of time, the parties may agree to an alternate arbitrator.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**


  
Joan Jessome  
President


  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of October, 2014.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #9**

**Devolution of Continuing Care**

**from the Department of Health to the District Health Authorities**

RE: DEVOLUTION OF CONTINUING CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO THE DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Between:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA THROUGH THE AGENCY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
(hereafter the "Province")

and

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY, A BODY CORPORATE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES ACT S.N.S. 2000, c.6  
(hereafter the "Employer")

and

THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES UNION  
(hereafter the "Union")

**Whereas:**

On January 17, 2008, the Government announced its decision to begin the process of integrating continuing care services within the District Health Authorities and

This involves a transition of the Department of Health's Continuing Care functions and employees to the District Health Authorities, and

In respect of the Employees at the Department of Health who are listed on Schedule A hereto and who are represented by the Union and who deliver or support the delivery of continuing care programs and the Parties hereto have agreed to transfer their employment from the Province to the Employer by way of this Agreement.

**Now therefore** it is agreed as follows:

## **1. Definitions**

- a) Agreement means the Memorandum of Agreement between the Province, the Union and the Employer including any schedule hereto.
- b) Bargaining Unit means the Bargaining Unit as defined in the Collective Agreements. The phrase “and Continuing Care Programs” shall be added to the Bargaining Unit definition in the Health care and Nursing Collective Agreements.
- c) Collective Agreements means the Collective Agreements between the Employer and the Union which apply to the Employer’s Bargaining Units and which are in effect as of the Devolution Date.
- d) Devolution Date means June 7, 2009, the date upon which the Employees of the Province commenced being employees of the Employer which date to be confirmed.
- e) Employee(s) means an employee of the Province who was previously engaged in delivering or supporting the delivery of continuing care programs who is listed in Schedule “A” hereto and who became an Employee of the Employer on the Devolution Date.

## **2. Effective Date**

This Agreement became effective on and after the Devolution Date.

## **3. Voluntary Recognition**

- a) The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining agent for all Employees of the Employer in the Bargaining Units and the Employer and the Union agree that this Agreement constitutes a voluntary recognition within the meaning of section 30 of the Trade Union Act:
- b) The Employer agrees to post, on and after the Devolution Date, a copy of this Agreement in a conspicuous place or places where it is most likely to come to the attention of Employees and to continue the posting of the Agreement for a minimum period of 30 days.

## **4. Continuity of Employment**

The employment of all Employees listed in Schedule A shall continue without break or interruption and, subject to any agreement between the Employer and the Union, all seniority rights of these Employees shall continue unaffected by the change to their employment from the Province to the Employer.



## 5. Rights and Obligations

- a) The Employer and the Union agree that on and after the Devolution Date the Collective Agreements will apply to the Employees subject only to this Agreement and to such variation of the Collective Agreements as is agreed to herein or may later be agreed to between the Employer and the Union.
- b) The Employer agrees all accrued rights to pay, overtime pay, sick leave, public service awards, holidays, pensions, vacation, time off in lieu of overtime, compensatory time off for compensation when such time off is not possible, public service award advances, leaves of absence, maternity leave, pregnancy leave, adoption leave, leave for birth of child, parental leave or other existing leave arrangements, all rights to return to work from any leave, sickness, workers' compensation or injury on duty, vacation or holidays, granted or agreed prior to the effective date of this Memorandum of Agreement are preserved unaffected by the change in employment from the Province to the Employer. After the Devolution Date such Employees shall accrue such benefits in accordance with the Collective Agreements unless otherwise stated herein.
- c)
  - (i) Employees in a matching classification presently in the Collective Agreements shall be placed on the existing wage scale for that classification at the next higher step. If there is no next higher step, the Employee shall be "PIO'd" at his or her hourly rate of pay so long as the employee continues to work in his or her present classification.
  - (ii) Employees in a classification not presently in the Collective Agreements will maintain their classification and wage scale in effect as of the Devolution Date.
- d) An employee who has earned, by having 288 months of service as of the Devolution Date, a greater vacation entitlement than that provided in Collective Agreements shall retain that entitlement. Employees will be exempt from Article 17.10 (expiry of vacation accumulation) until a new Collective Agreement is in effect.
- e) The Employees shall be granted sick leave at the rate of 100% of normal salary for the first 40 days of an STI claim, until a new collective agreement is in effect. Any "grandparented" sick leave banks shall be used by Employees after the Devolution date only in accordance with the Collective Agreements.

- f) The Province and the Union agree that on and after the Devolution Date the Province, in respect of the Employees, shall have no further obligation under The Civil Service Master Agreement.
- g) Employees who retire with an actuarially-reduced pension will receive the retirement allowance pursuant to Article 29 of the Collective Agreement.
- h) The Province agrees to secure an Order-in-Council, if necessary, to provide that the Employees will be able to continue their public service pension as employees in the Bargaining Unit.
- i) If necessary to ensure that the employees in the Bargaining Unit are covered by the Public Service Long-Term Disability Plan, the Employer and the Union agree to jointly request the Trustees of the Plan to include the Employer and the employees under that Plan.
- j) Eligible Employees shall be provided with the following moving/relocation expenses on a “present incumbent only basis” so long as they continue to work in their present classification:

“Where the Employer requires an employee to relocate outside the employee’s geographic location, the Employer will reimburse the employee’s actual and reasonable relocation expenses to a maximum amount of \$7,500.00.”
- k) The Employees who have been designated by the Employer as belonging to a class of employment where the availability of a motor vehicle is deemed to be a condition of employment may opt to receive a monthly car allowance of \$314.88, plus 23.23 cents per kilometer adjusted annually on April 1<sup>st</sup> based on the average year-over-year percentage change in the Nova Scotia Private Transportation Index for the calendar year preceding the April 1 effective change date, as calculated by Statistics Canada on a “present incumbent only” basis so long as they continue to work in their present classification, until a new Collective Agreement takes effect. Once a new Collective Agreement takes effect, the Employees will be subject to the same provisions in relation to monthly vehicle allowance as other employees of the Employer who, on a grandfathered basis, presently have this allowance.
- l) Continuing Care Coordinators who, at the date of Devolution are paid an educational premium, shall have that educational premium continued so long as they continue to work in that classification.
- m) The Employer and the Union agree that this Agreement shall be incorporated into and become part of the Collective Agreements.

## **6. Existing Grievances, etc.**

- a) All grievances, classification appeals, adjudications, interest arbitrations and judicial review proceedings which arose before the Devolution Date shall continue unaffected by the change in employment for the Province to the employer with such modification to process as may be required by the Collective Agreements, and with the Employer continuing as the Employer in the place and stead of the Province.
- b) All classification disputes which have been referred to a Classification Appeal Tribunal under the Civil Service Master Agreement before the Devolution Date, but which have not begun, shall proceed to the Appeal Tribunal (unless earlier resolved between the Union and the Employer) and the Employer shall continue as the Employer before the Tribunal in the place and stead of the Province.

## **7. Recognition of Employee Service and Seniority**

- a) Subject to any agreement between the Union and the Employer, all periods of service for an Employee in the Civil Service and periods of employment recognized as service by the Province before the Devolution Date shall be deemed service with the Employer for all purposes and all seniority rights of Employees shall be preserved and shall continue unaffected by the change in employment from the Province to the Employer.
- b) Seniority of Employees as of the Devolution Date is defined as the length of continuous employment dating from the last date of appointment to the Civil Service.
- c) As of the Devolution Date/ an Employee who is a "Term" employee under the Civil Service Master Agreement shall be considered as "Casual" employee under the Collective Agreements/ except that such casual Employees who reach three or more years of accumulated service shall have layoff/recall rights as provided in Article 32 of the Collective Agreement.

## **8. Work Schedules. Vacation Schedules and Shift Arrangements**


Until changed in accordance with the Collective Agreements all hours of work/ vacation schedules/ and shift arrangements of the Employees in effect immediately before the Devolution Date shall continue unaffected by the change in employment from the Province of the Employer. Modified Work Weeks shall


continue after the Devolution Date subject to the terms of the Collective Agreements.


### 9. Re-signing of Memorandum

All parties hereto agree to re-sign the Agreement on the Devolution Date.

Signed on behalf of the Union:

  
Joan Jessome  
President

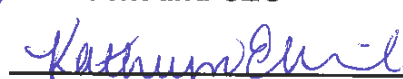
  
Linda Power  
Chief Negotiator

  
Karen Ferguson  
Bargaining Committee

  
Rebecca Norris  
Bargaining Committee

Signed on behalf of the Employer:

  
Chris Power  
President and CEO

  
Kathy MacNeil  
Vice-President, People

  
David Collins  
Manager, Labour Relations

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #10**

### **Attendance Support – Expedited Procedure**


1. The terms of this procedure will be applied in any case where the employer proposes a change to the terms of employment of an employee through the application of the Attendance Support Policy.
2. A change to the terms of employment of an employee means:
  - a. a termination of employment
  - b. a change or reduction in work hours
  - c. a change in work location
  - d. a transfer to a different position
  - e. a modification of duties, or
  - f. any other situation specifically agreed upon by both parties.
3. Where such a change is contemplated the Employer shall, at least 30 days in advance of the effective date of the change, notify the Union and the employee in writing. The notification shall specify the nature of the change contemplated and details outlining the basis for the Employer's proposed action.
4. Upon receipt of the notification the Union shall, within 14 days, provide a written response indicating whether it will be challenging the proposed Employer action through the grievance process. Where the Union proposes to challenge the action through the grievance process it will include in its response a brief summary of the reasons for this.
5. Upon receipt of the notification from the Union that it intends to challenge the proposed action of the Employer the parties shall, with a further period of 14 days, meet to review the case. Where requested by either party, the employee and/or a representative of Occupational Health Services shall attend the meeting. As part of that meeting each participant will provide to the other with full disclosure of any relevant information in its possession relating to the specific issues raised by the case in question. This will include any information regarding factors or conditions that have been, or could foreseeably be, affecting the employee's ability to meet their obligations under the Attendance Support Program.
6. All information provided through this process shall be treated as confidential and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of reaching a resolution of the employee's case under this process or, where applicable, adjudicating issues in dispute through the arbitration process as provided for in this Memorandum.


7. Participants shall provide any written consents required to expedite this process. Where the required consents cannot be obtained either party may apply to the arbitrator, with notice to the other, for an order of disclosure.
8. The purpose of the review meeting will be for the parties to have a full and open discussion of the issues arising from the case in question and to attempt to reach a resolution on its appropriate disposition.
9. If the parties are unable to reach agreement at this stage the matter shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with this process. Where arbitration is requested the Employer shall not initiate any of the proposed changes to the terms of employment of the employee until after the case has been dealt with through this arbitration process.
10. The arbitration of cases arising through this process shall be done on an expedited basis. The parties agree to the standing appointment of as sole arbitrator in all cases referred through this process. Only in the event that is unable to convene a hearing within the required time frames will the parties then attempt to agree upon a substitute. Where the parties are unable to agree upon a substitute within a period of 10 working days after learning of unavailability, either may make application to the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Environment for the appointment of a substitute.
11. The arbitrator shall set the case down for hearing within 30 days of the date of the referral to arbitration. In any arbitration held pursuant to this Memorandum the procedures outlined in paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the expedited arbitration process outlined in Appendix 1 of the collective agreement shall be followed.
12. An arbitrator appointed through this process shall be empowered to determine only issues in dispute involving the case of the particular employee in question, including whether any changes to the terms and conditions of employment are appropriate or justified in light of the employee's attendance record and his assessment of the employee's ability to meet their obligations under the Attendance Support Program.
13. The parties agree that the Employer's decision to place an Employee on the Attendance Support Program and/or to move the Employee through the steps of the Attendance Support Program will not be the subject matter of a grievance until such time as there has been a "change to the terms of employment" as defined in Article 2 of this memorandum. Where prior steps have been taken under the Attendance Support Program in the case of any individual employee, the Union's failure to challenge these actions through grievances at the time they were taken shall not preclude the arbitrator from reviewing the circumstances


surrounding each of these as part of his overall assessment of the employee's case.

14. Any award issued through this process shall be binding on the parties and the employee.
15. In cases where an arbitrator issues an award that does not involve the termination of the employment of the employee, he shall retain jurisdiction in the case. Either party may at any time following the award request that a hearing that a hearing be convened to review the employee's case. Where such a review has taken place arbitrator shall have the jurisdiction to revise the terms of his previous orders.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**

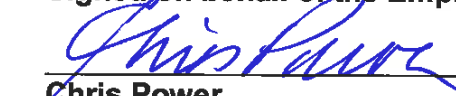
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joan Jessome**  
**President**


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda Power**  
**Chief Negotiator**

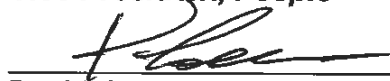
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Karen Ferguson**  
**Bargaining Committee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rebecca Norris**  
**Bargaining Committee**

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chris Power**  
**President and CEO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy MacNeil**  
**Vice President, People**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Collins**  
**Manager, Labour Relations**

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of October, 2014.

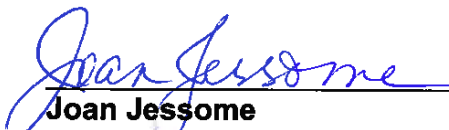
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT #11**

**Mental Health Commission Steering Committee\***

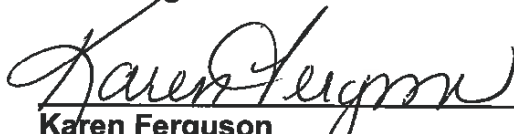
Whereas the Employer has been selected to participate in the Mental Health Commission of Canada research project related to psychological health and safety in the workplace, the Employer shall conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the Commission's standards to identify workplace psychological health and safety hazards and risks to employees.

The Employer and the Union agree to establish a joint committee to guide the Mental Health Commission Steering Committee of Canada research project related to psychological health and safety in the workplace, including implementation and evaluation.

**Signed on behalf of the Union:**

  
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**Joan Jessome**  
**President**

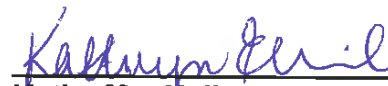
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Linda Power**  
**Chief Negotiator**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Karen Ferguson**  
**Bargaining Committee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rebecca Norris**  
**Bargaining Committee**

**Signed on behalf of the Employer:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chris Power**  
**President and CEO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy MacNeil**  
**Vice President, People**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Collins**  
**Manager, Labour Relations**

DATED AT Halifax, N.S. this 24 day of OCTOBER, 2014.



## ALPHABETICAL INDEX

### A

Absence Without Permission .....	64
Accumulative Vacation Carry Over .....	34
Acknowledgment of Letters of Resignation .....	64
Acting Pay .....	99
Adoption Leave .....	47
Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Dependency .....	59
Allocation and Notice of Overtime .....	27
ALPHABETICAL INDEX.....	164
ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF CLASSIFICATIONS.....	132
Alternate Medical Practitioner .....	61
Amending of Time Limits.....	67
Anniversary Date.....	97
Annual Meeting/Collective Bargaining Workshop.....	16
Annual Vacation Entitlement .....	31
Application.....	81, 125
APPLICATION .....	7
Application of Collective Agreement.....	115
Application of the Collective Agreement.....	105
Appointment .....	106
APPOINTMENT .....	10
Appointment Status.....	10
ARBITRATION .....	68
Arbitration and Joint Consultation .....	17
Arbitration Award.....	69
Arbitration Board .....	68
Arbitration Expenses .....	69
Arbitration Procedure .....	69
ARTICLE 25 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....	65
Assignment of Casual Employees.....	107
Attendance Support – Expedited Procedure .....	160
Authorization .....	32

### B

Banked Vacation .....	142
Bargaining Agent Recognition.....	5
Bargaining Unit Information.....	10
Benefits .....	126
Benefits Committee.....	71
Benefits Not Paid During Certain Periods .....	57

Benefits/Layoff .....	57
Bereavement Leave .....	116
Bereavement Leave* .....	40
Borrowing of Unearned Vacation Credits .....	34
Bulletin Boards .....	8

<b>C</b>
----------

Callback Compensation .....	30
Call-In .....	29
Cancellation of Relief Assignment.....	114
Car Allowance .....	144
Carry Over of Overtime .....	29
Casual Availability List.....	109
Casual Employees .....	110
CASUAL EMPLOYEES.....	105
Casual Seniority .....	4
Casual Shifts .....	94
Casuals Placed in Assignments .....	115
Charge Nurse* .....	103
Christmas or New Year's Day Off.....	39
Circumstances .....	103
CLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFICATION .....	121
Classification and Salary Adjustments .....	121
Classification Appeal Procedure .....	121
Classification Appeal Tribunal.....	122
CNA Certification.....	102
Compassionate Care Leave.....	55
Compensation for Performing Other Duties .....	29
Compensation for Work on a Holiday .....	37
Compensation Where Rest Interval Not Taken* .....	31
Completion of Assignments.....	114
Computation of Overtime .....	28
Confidentiality of Health Information .....	59
Confirmation of Permanent Appointment .....	10
Consecutive Shifts.....	22
Consistent Application.....	7
Continuation of Benefits .....	95
Continuing Accumulation in the Banks* .....	140
Contract Negotiations.....	17
Contracting Out .....	87
Conversion of Hours.....	25
Copies of Agreement.....	9
Costs .....	121
Court Leave.....	41
Coverage of Employees .....	74

**D**

Daylight Saving Time .....	29
Days of Rest During Vacation* .....	36
Days Off .....	22
Deduction of Union Dues and Assessments .....	14
Deemed Salary .....	58
Definition .....	80
Definitions .....	1, 27
Designated Units* .....	100
Deviations from Scheduled Hours .....	20
Devolution of Continuing Care .....	154
DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE .....	63
Discontinuance of Premium .....	101
Discontinuation of Premium .....	102
Displacement Procedure .....	85
Displacement Process.....	92
Distribution of Union Literature .....	8

**E**

Earning Entitlements .....	116
Education Leave .....	53
Educational Premiums .....	101
Eligibility .....	125
Eligibility For Utilization .....	69
Emergencies .....	104
Emergency Services .....	8
Employee Access to Personnel File .....	63
Employee Availability .....	30
Employee Compensation Upon Separation .....	34
Employee Entitlement .....	60
Employee Performance Review .....	62
Employee Placement Rights .....	82
Employee Request.....	33
Employee(s) on Recall List.....	109
Employer Approval.....	59
Employer Compensation Upon Separation .....	35
Employer Conducted Post-Graduate Training.....	102
Employer to Acquaint New Employees .....	9
EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY .....	105
Employer's Liability.....	105
Employer's Travel Policy .....	72
Entitlement to Benefits .....	115
Exception .....	37, 97
Exception to Rate of Pay.....	108
Exceptions.....	105
Exchange of Shifts .....	23

Existing Employees Only.....	118
EXPEDITED ARBITRATION - RULES OF PROCEDURE* .....	129
Expedited Arbitration Procedure .....	69
Extension of Job Share .....	120

**F**

Failure to Give Notice.....	64
Failure to Report .....	30
Filling Vacancies or Assignments* .....	12
First-Aid Kits.....	79
Flexible Working Hours .....	20
Form of Compensation.....	28
Formula for Part-time Hours.....	94
Further TSP Payment Offers.....	90
FUTURE LEGISLATION .....	7

**G**

Gender .....	5
General Leave.....	49
Granting of Withheld Increment.....	98
Grievance Mediation .....	66
Grievance Meetings .....	17
Grievance Procedure .....	65
Grievance/Arbitration.....	13
Grievances .....	63, 65, 104
Group Insurance .....	117
GROUP INSURANCE.....	55
Group Life and Medical Plans .....	55

**H**

Headings .....	5, 7, 8, 11, 26, 108, 115, 117
HEALTH AND DENTAL PLANS.....	131
HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	75
Health and Safety Provisions .....	75
Hiring Preference .....	88
Holiday Coinciding with Paid Leave .....	37
Holiday Falling on a Day of Rest .....	37
Holiday Pay .....	107
HOLIDAYS.....	36
Hours of Work .....	119, 144
Hours of Work* .....	19
HOURS OF WORK*.....	19
Hours Worked .....	115

I

Identification of Job Share ..... 118  
Illness During Vacation.....36  
Illness on a Paid Holiday .....39  
ILLNESS/INJURY BENEFIT .....56  
In-Charge Pay .....102  
Incumbency Protection.....144  
Incumbents.....121  
INFORMATION .....9  
In-Service Conferences.....51  
Insufficient Volunteers .....83  
INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS.....1  
Introduction .....81

J

Job Posting ..... 11  
Job Posting Grievances .....66  
JOB POSTING\* .....11  
Job Postings.....104  
JOB SECURITY\* .....80  
JOB SHARING .....117  
Joint Committee on Technological Change .....80, 91  
Joint Consultation.....69  
JOINT CONSULTATION.....69  
Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee .....75  
Joint Rehabilitation Advisory Committee .....56  
Jury Compensation .....42  
Just Cause .....63

K

Kilometrage Allowance.....72

L

Late Career Nurse Retention Bonus\* .....98  
Layoff .....83  
Layoff Exception\* .....87  
Layoff Notice .....83  
Layoff Procedure .....84  
Leave for Adoption of Child .....49  
Leave for Birth of Child.....49  
Leave for Emergency .....50  
Leave for Family Illness.....50  
Leave for Medical and Dental Appointments.....50  
Leave for Storms or Hazardous Conditions.....51

Leave of Absence for Political Office.....	52
Leave of Absence for the Full-time President.....	18
Leave Without Pay .....	15
Leave* .....	125
Leaves.....	107
LEAVES* .....	40
Letter of Appointment.....	9
Liability .....	14
Long Assignments.....	110
LONG ASSIGNMENTS .....	109
Long Service Increment .....	98
Long Term Disability Plans.....	56
Long-Term Disability .....	58
Loss of Seniority.....	86

**M**

Management Rights .....	7
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS .....	7
Meal Breaks and Rest Periods.....	22
MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT*.....	139
Mental Health Commission Steering Committee* .....	163
Military Leave .....	53
Modified Work Week .....	20

**N**

New and Existing Sick Leave Banks .....	140
No Avoidance.....	108
No Discrimination .....	6
No Discrimination for Union Activity .....	6
No Guarantee of Hours .....	20
No Layoff to Compensate for Overtime .....	29
No Lockout or Strike.....	8
No Loss of Service/ Seniority .....	17
No New Employees.....	87
No Pyramiding of Benefits.....	102
No Sanction of Strike.....	8
Notice .....	120
Notice of Layoff .....	84
Notice of Performance Improvement Requirements .....	63
Notice of Resignation .....	64
NOTICE OF RESIGNATION .....	64
Notice of Withheld Increment .....	98
Notice to Union.....	81
Notification .....	15, 63, 68
Notification of Deduction .....	14
Notification to Employer .....	16

Notification to the Union .....	11, 104
Number of Employees.....	95
Number of Employees Eligible .....	17
Nurse Educators/Nursing Instructors (Post RN faculty) and Clinical Nurse Educators ..	19
Nursing Coverage .....	22

**O**

Occupational Health and Safety Act.....	75
Occupational Health and Safety Audit Process and Training.....	149
Ongoing Therapy .....	62
Operational Requirements .....	118
Other Expenses .....	72
Overtime.....	107, 116
OVERTIME .....	27
Overtime Compensation.....	27
Overtime Eligibility.....	28
Overtime Exception.....	19
Overtime Meal Allowance.....	28
Overtime on a Holiday.....	38, 107
Overtime Restrictions .....	115

**P**

Paid Holidays .....	36
Parental and Adoption Leave Allowance.....	48
Parental Leave .....	45
Parking for Callback.....	31
Part of Collective Agreement.....	118
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.....	115
Part-time Employees Accepting Assignments of Full-time Hours.....	113
Pay in Lieu of Benefits.....	107
Pay in Lieu of Notice .....	85, 114
Pay in Lieu of Termination Notice .....	11
Pay Increments .....	108
PAY PLAN* .....	133
PAY PROVISIONS* .....	96
Payment Formula and Leave of Absence .....	125
Pension .....	117, 120
Period of Job Share.....	118
Permanent Part-time Employees .....	109
Permanent Relief Nurse .....	146
Personal Illness and Injury .....	49
Placement in New Position.....	13
Placement Procedure.....	89
Policy Grievance .....	67
Position Descriptions.....	9
Posting of Seniority Lists.....	4

Posting of Shift Schedules .....	23
PREAMBLE.....	1
Pre-existing Sick Leave Banks.....	140
Pregnancy Leave .....	42
Pregnancy/Birth Leave Allowance.....	44
Prepaid Leave .....	52
PREPAID LEAVE PLAN.....	124
Probationary Period.....	10, 106
Professional Dues .....	14
Proof of Illness .....	58
Pro-Rating of Benefits .....	119
Protection of Pregnant Employees.....	79
Purpose.....	124

<b>Q</b>
----------

Qualifications.....	118
---------------------	-----

<b>R</b>
----------

Rate of Pay upon Appointment .....	108
Rate of Pay Upon Appointment.....	97
Rate of Pay Upon Demotion.....	97
Rate of Pay Upon Promotion.....	97
Rate of Pay Upon Reclassification .....	98
Rates of Pay* .....	96
Reassignment .....	103
REASSIGNMENT.....	103
Recall From Meal Breaks and Rest Periods.....	22
Recall from Vacation .....	35
Recall Procedures.....	86
Recognition .....	15
RECOGNITION.....	5
Recognition of Previous Experience.....	151
Record of Disciplinary Action .....	62
Recurring Disabilities.....	56
Recurring Disability .....	61
Reduced Hours and TSP Payment .....	94
Re-employment Considerations .....	95
Referral to Arbitration .....	68
Regular Arbitration Procedure.....	68
Reimbursement of Expenses upon Recall .....	35
Reinstatement of Vacation Upon Recall.....	35
Release Form.....	94
Relief Against Time Limits.....	68
Relief Assignments.....	113
RELIEF ASSIGNMENTS.....	109
Religious Day in Lieu.....	38



Religious Exclusions .....	14
Remittance of Union Dues and Assessments .....	14
Replacement of Unplanned Absences* .....	26
Report of Injuries .....	60
Reporting Pay .....	114
Rest Interval After Callback* .....	31
Rest Intervals between Scheduled Shifts .....	19
Restriction on Assignment of Work Where Refusal.....	79
Restriction on Numbers of Employees on Vacation .....	33
Retention of Status.....	13
Retiree Benefits.....	74
Retirement Allowance .....	73
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE .....	73
Return to Regular Times of Work.....	20
Right to Refuse Work and Consequences of Refusal .....	77
Rights and Benefits .....	118
RIGHTS AND PROHIBITIONS .....	8
Rotation of Shifts.....	23
Rules of Procedure.....	69

<b>S</b>
----------

S.T.I. Benefit Grievance* .....	153
Sabbatical Leave.....	55
Salary Continuance .....	16
Salary Increments .....	98
Salary Protection.....	93
Same Sex Family Status .....	6
Scheduling Models* .....	26
Second TSP Payment Offer .....	90
Secondment.....	11
Selection/Promotion Process Leave .....	42
Seniority .....	3
Service .....	3, 116
Servicing of Grievances .....	15
Severance Payment Method .....	95
Sexual and Personal Harassment.....	6
Sexual Harassment and Personal Harassment.....	67
Shift Duration .....	21
Shift Premium* .....	99
Short Assignments .....	112
SHORT ASSIGNMENTS.....	109
Short-Term Illness Leave Benefit .....	56
Sick Leave Application .....	58
Sick Leave Banks* .....	140
Sick Leave Records .....	59
Single Arbitrator .....	68
Special Leave.....	40

Specialty Nurse Practitioner .....	152
Split Shifts .....	23
STANDBY AND CALLBACK* .....	30
Standby Compensation* .....	30
STEWARDS .....	15
SUCCESSOR RIGHTS .....	124

**T**

Temporarily Working in a Position Outside the Bargaining Unit .....	13
TERM OF AGREEMENT* .....	128
Termination of Assignments .....	114
Termination of Employment Relationship .....	108
Termination of Job Share .....	120
Termination of Probationary Appointment .....	10, 106
Termination of Recall Rights .....	86
Terms and Conditions of Job Sharing .....	117
Terms of Reference .....	124
THE PENSIONS .....	74
Time Limits .....	67
Time Off in Lieu for Part-time and Job Share Employees .....	39
Time Off in Lieu of Holiday .....	39
Time Off in Lieu of Overtime .....	28
To "Top Up" STI .....	140
To Cover STI/LTD Gap .....	140
Training and Retraining .....	81
Transfers between Units .....	100
Transition .....	144
Transition Allowance .....	96
Transition Services / EAP .....	95
Transition Support Program .....	82, 87
TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM .....	91
Transportation Allowance* .....	31
Transportation To/From Work .....	73
TRAVEL .....	72
TSP .....	92
TSP Payment Offers .....	89
TSP Severance Payment .....	94

**U**

Unbroken Vacation .....	33
Unearned Credits Upon Death .....	59
Uniforms and Protective Clothing .....	80
Union Approval .....	65
Union Consultation .....	27, 81
UNION INFORMATION AND OFFICE .....	8
Union Office .....	9

Union Referral to Arbitration.....	67
Union Representation.....	64, 67
Union/Management Quality Care Committee.....	70
Unit Premium.....	100
Unit Specific Casual Lists.....	109
Unpaid Leave.....	116
Use of Accumulated Vacation Carry Over.....	34
Use of Credits in Sick Leave Banks.....	140

<b>V</b>
----------

Vacation Carry Over.....	34
Vacation Credits Upon Death.....	35
Vacation Records.....	35
Vacation Scheduling.....	32
Vacation Year.....	32
VACATIONS*.....	31
Voluntary Resignation and Seniority.....	91
Volunteers.....	83

<b>W</b>
----------

WCB Earnings Replacement Supplement.....	141
Weekend Nurse.....	24
Week-end Premium*.....	100
Week-ends Off*.....	23
Withdrawal.....	127
Withdrawal of Resignation.....	65
Work Schedule Requirements.....	119
Written Contract.....	127