HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN HELP BUILD A BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR NOVA SCOTIA

The things that make for healthy communities and attract skilled workers: good schools, good hospitals, affordable housing (to buy and to rent), and quality public services that are there when and where you need them.

That's why it's more important than ever that we work together to solve Nova Scotia's health care crisis. We all have a stake in resolving these issues – municipalities, residents, businesses, and workers alike.

Steps that municipalities can take to help resolve the health care crisis

1. Pass resolutions at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (and your municipal council)

- Request that the Nova Scotia government stop engaging in health care privatization and invest in public sector solutions.

- Request the provincial government develop a comprehensive health care recruitment and retention plan in consultation with the unions that represent Nova Scotia's health care workers.

2. Declare a day of recognition for the health care workers who live and work in your municipality

Show appreciation for health care workers – in hospitals, long-term care, emergency services, home support, and community-based health care – and let them know that the work they do makes your community a better place to live, to raise a family, and to do business.

3. Contact the MLAs in your municipal area and ask them to invest in people and invest in our public health care system.

CUPE
NOVA SCOTIA

HEALTH CARE NEEDS SOLUTIONS, NOT PRIVATIZATION

Privatization and contracting out of health care services will not solve the labour shortage we are currently dealing with in Nova Scotia's health care system. It will make the recruitment and retention crisis worse. Privatization drains workers from the public sector to the private sector, moving people around instead of bringing more people in it.

It's robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Involving a private operator distorts the goals of delivering public services. The public interest takes a back seat to maximizing profits or cutting costs.

Our governments must focus on public solutions, like removing barriers to entry in the workforce, cutting tuition fees, stopping the casualization of the work and improving working conditions for all, in order to retain staff.

Public solutions cost less, cover everyone, and deliver more

Our health care system isn't perfect, and we all know that improvements are needed, and fast. Unfortunately, some big private interest groups are trying to convince our political decision-makers that privatization will improve access to health care.

We know all too well that this is not true.

When it comes to health care, privatization always costs more, lowers the quality of services and favours the wealthy over everyone else.

It makes no sense at all.

Improvements can and must be made within our public health care system. CUPE Nova Scotia wants to be part of the solution, proposing real improvements to the system for the benefit of the public and the people who work in health care. This involves attracting and retaining skilled workers, access to family doctors and specialists, shortening waitlists for surgeries, stopping contracting out, and other issues.

There is no room for profit in our public health care system. We could have all the public services we need if we stop handing over our public health care dollars to for-profit corporations.