

Alexandra.Smith@novascotia.ca

October 11, 2019

Alex Smith
Department of Health & Wellness

Dear Alex:

I am writing today to express a deep frustration of on behalf of NSGEU members in Home Care who are still waiting for bargaining dates with the employer or experiencing unnecessary delays at the bargaining table. While larger home care groups like VON and Northwood have completed negotiations and ratified new collective agreements in this sector; other home care locals like local 36, the Antigonish and Area Homemaker Service and Local 83, Northside Homemakers, are still awaiting dates to get to the table. The Union has requested dates on several occasions since the fall of 2018, with the employers simply not responding to these requests placing bargaining at an impasse.

In local 39, the Inverness County Home Support Agency, dates have been agreed to and then cancelled on short notice creating even more frustration among members. Cape Breton County Homemakers have some dates, but there is a concern that this employer will also cancel at last moment.

In areas where we have gone to the table like local 37 with the Guysborough County Home Support Agency and local 76 with the City Homemaker Service Society, we have been able to have decent discussions, however, it appears the employers are being slowed down and telling us they are "awaiting direction" from the Department of Health and Wellness. They are awaiting direction on provisions like bereavement, mileage and storm time that already exist in other NSGEU home care collective agreements. With many of the remaining home care agreements being expired for over four years; the continuing delays in the process are extremely frustrating for our members.

The NSGEU has a set of dates that are available for their bargaining negotiators, but the employer appear to be more than happy to continue without having needed discussion to these already tasked workplaces. Our available dates are:

Oct 15,16,17,18
Oct 31
Nov 7/8
Nov 12/13/14/15
Nov 18/19/20/21/22
Nov 27/28/29

We need to get these locals to the tables and avoid any further unnecessary delays while the employer waits for direction from Halifax.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Jason MacLean
President

c. Minister Furey