



**Nova Scotia Government and
General Employees Union**
100 Eileen Stubbs Ave
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,
B3B 1Y6

Labour Resource Centre: 424-4063
Toll-Free: 1-877-55-NSGEU (67438)
E-Mail: lrc@nsgeu.ca
Website: www.nsgeu.ca

For Immediate Release:

March 25, 2009

NSGEU Opposes Private, For-Profit Operator for Telecare

Halifax – The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) is strongly opposed to having a private, for-profit operator for the proposed new telecare service announced on Tuesday by Health Minister Karen Casey.

“Why would the government be willing to sign a three-year contract worth almost \$20 million in total to a business when we have a system of nine District Health Authorities and 37 community health boards whose job it is to provide such vital services?” asks NSGEU President, Joan Jessome.

Jessome continues, “wouldn’t the profits made by McKesson Canada be better used in the public system? We just experienced a slowdown in surgeries this March at the CDHA and there are new warnings of a crisis in seniors care in Cape Breton as two geriatric specialists resigned citing a lack of support services from the District Health Authority. We can’t afford to give away tax dollars as profits to private companies.”

Ms. Jessome also expressed concerns about the potential implications of this for-profit service for existing health care workers. “This type of arrangement opens the door to a possible significant expansion of many other existing services operating in the public system. This is a very dangerous precedent that further undermines the public system,” Jessome concluded.

-30-

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union represents over 26,000 women and men who provide quality public services Nova Scotians count on.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Deedee Slye,
Communications Officer, NSGEU
902-497-6761 (cell)
deedees@nsgeu.ca