

Don't make **health shortages** worse

Coalition of Unions will not participate in anti-strike discussions

Halifax (October 12, 2007) - The Coalition representing Nova Scotia health care workers in the fight to retain their collective bargaining rights maintains that they will not participate in talks pertaining to the right to strike.

The Coalition is responding today to news reports that the Department of Labour invited the health care unions to meetings next week to review the proposed legislation.

“Minister Parent has asked us to meet, but to what end. It’s a shallow gesture. As far as we are concerned, anything that has the potential to make our health care shortages worse, is a moot point,” says Federation of Labour President Rick Clarke. Mr. Clarke and the coalition of seven unions, whose members would be affected by the Premier’s legislation, also states that the unions have said from the beginning that they will not sit down to discuss any form of anti-strike legislation.

“As far as we know, nothing has changed. We are not prepared to talk about something we oppose. There are no variations of anti-strike legislation. It is what it is. We are not about to participate in dialogue of this nature.”

Mr. Clarke and the other health care unions have asked the Premier to address the real issues in health care such as ER closures, wait times, staffing shortages of nurses and other health and community care workers, not the stripping away of workers’ rights which the Coalition says is not a priority for Nova Scotians.

“Premier MacDonald should be focused on issues that are of urgent concern for workers and the public. Too much has been made of a non-issue that is more about politics than good public policy,” says Clarke.

www.dontmakehealthshortagesworse.ca

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