



Nova Scotia
Federation of Labour, CLC

PRESS RELEASE from the N.S. Federation of Labour
April 2, 2008

Viewpoints Poll Shows Nova Scotians Oppose P3s, Prefer Public Surgery Clinics

95% of Respondents Tell Government to Focus on Recruitment and Retention

Halifax - A new public opinion poll shows Nova Scotians oppose P3 Hospitals, strongly prefer a public surgery clinic over a private clinic and want the MacDonald Government to focus on recruiting and retaining nurses and health care workers.

The poll, conducted by Viewpoints Research on behalf of a coalition of health care unions, reveals that more than **54 per cent** of Nova Scotians disagreed with the idea of using private partnerships to build new hospitals according the poll of 1,008 Nova Scotians which was completed at the end of March. Only **37.5 per cent** of Nova Scotians agree with the idea.

“The MacDonald Government has no mandate to enter into P3 partnerships to build hospitals,” Federation of Labour President Rick Clarke said today. “This idea was never part of their budget and they didn’t consult with Nova Scotians in any meaningful way. We decided we’d find out for ourselves what Nova Scotians think of the government’s plans by asking them directly.”

Nova Scotians were also asked about whether they supported a for-profit clinic doing minor surgeries or whether the government should create a public clinic to do that work. More than three-quarters (**78.2 per cent**) preferred a publicly run clinic over the private clinic.

The Viewpoints poll also tested the province’s plan, outlined in its Corpus Sanchez report, to centralize some medical services. That plan would reduce things like lab and emergency room services in rural Nova Scotia and provide them in the urban centres. Again **78 per cent** of Nova Scotians disagreed indicating they want rural health services protected.

Nova Scotians overwhelmingly supported the idea that the MacDonald Government should focus on recruiting and retaining nurses and healthcare workers. More than **95 per cent** agreed that this was the best way to fix problems with the healthcare system.

“This poll is a strong endorsement for the delivery of services through the public system. It’s also a warning to the Premier. It’s time his government started dealing with the real problems in health care – the shortage of nurses and health care workers,” Clarke said.

The Viewpoints poll is accurate within 3.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20. Please see attached the detailed questions and responses cited in this release. The poll was commissioned by a coalition of healthcare unions that include SEIU, CAW, NSGEU, CUPE and the NSNU.

Note to Editors: we have also attached an opinion piece on the findings of the Viewpoints poll for publication.

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For more information, please call Rick Clarke at: 454.6735 (office) or 434.5612 (home); Janet Hazelton, NSNU, at 456-2084; Joan Jessome, NSGEU, at 471-4566; John McCracken, CUPE, at 880-8057 or Susan Burrows, CAW, at 562-3857.

CAW Local 4005

VIEWPOINTS RESEARCH Polling results
1008 Sample Size
Polling from March 20 to March 27, 2008

Some people have suggested the following proposals to the government in order to fix the problems with the **health care system in Nova Scotia**. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that the government do each of the following. **(ROTATE QUESTIONS)**

	STR AGREE	AGREE	DIS- AGREE	STR DIS- AGREE	DK/ REF	MEAN
Train and hire more nurses, doctors, technicians and other health care workers.	46.7%	48.5%	2.1%	1%	1.7%	1.40
Instead of allowing a for-profit clinic to do day surgeries, like knee scoping, the government should create a clinic like this in the public health system.	22.4%	55.8%	14.1%	3.4%	4.4%	0.83
Have the government partner with private companies to finance and build hospitals which the government would then rent back.	4%	33.5%	33.8%	20.4%	8.3%	-0.36
Reduce services in smaller, local hospitals, and only provide those services in larger centres.	2.4%	16.8%	50.2%	27.9%	2.7%	-0.87