



March 19, 2020

JOINT STATEMENT: NSHA, IWK, NSNU & CUPE on CHILDCARE and COVID-19

As you are likely aware, the Government of Nova Scotia has closed all schools and child care centres effective until April 3rd, 2020 (with the possibility of extension) as one of many steps to slow the spread of COVID 19. This decision may have significant impacts for frontline staff. We wish to provide support and direction if you are experiencing issues with child care as a result of these closures.

We will work with you as best we can to ensure that you and your patients are safe. If you are having issues arranging child care please reach out to your manager, immediately. It is important that you allow flexibility in your scheduling and that you are prepared to work with your employer to find solutions that will support you and ensure that patients continue to receive the care they need.

If you are having challenges securing childcare, please consider the following:

- Look to trusted members of your community who, as a result of these closures, may now be home and able to provide care for your children (teachers, educational assistants, daycare employees, etc.).
- Reach out to University and College students who are now restricted from in-class sessions class and are now unemployed.
- Connect with your colleagues to see if there is an opportunity to support one another and provide child care for co-workers while they are required to be at work.
- Utilize any safe back-up plans that you have already put in place for childcare.

We are facing extremely trying and unprecedented times. As the frontline of health care, we must remember that many people rely on the work that you do and the commitment you have made to providing care. We truly appreciate everything you do, particularly during times like these. When we are faced with difficult situations, the spirit, courage and compassion of health care workers truly shines.

Sincerely,

Janet Hazelton, President, NSNU
Bev Strachan, President, CUPE
Joanne Stone, Sr. Director, People Services, NSHA

