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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Support Staff at Saint Mary's University Ratify Tentative Agreement

Halifax – Members of the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU) Local 79, support staff at Saint Mary's University, have voted 89% in favour of a tentative agreement reached with their employer on May 11, 2010.

"We are very pleased to have reached this agreement with Saint Mary's," says NSGEU President Joan Jessome. "The bargaining team and Employee Relations Officer, Tina Webber, worked hard to reach this agreement. Bargaining was very challenging at times."

The new three year agreement begins July 1, 2009. Highlights of the new agreement include wage increases and small improvements in vacation, standby and tuition benefits. The employer has also agreed to consider changing its job evaluation system.

Wage improvements are as follows:

July 1, 2009 – 2.9%

July 1, 2010 – 2% plus a new step 9 with an additional 0.457%

July 1, 2011 – 2% plus an additional 0.457% for those members in step 9.

There are 156 support staff in the bargaining unit.

Members of Local 79 provide a wide range of services at Saint Mary's University including Systems Analysts, Technicians, Clerks, Secretaries, Coordinators of Services, Web Developer, Library Assistants and more.

Bargaining began December 17, 2009.

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The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union represents over 28,000 women and men who provide quality public services Nova Scotians count on everyday.

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