



PRESS RELEASE

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Laundry workers at the CDHA employed by Crothall Services vote 93% in favour of a strike

Halifax - NSGEU Local 24 members who provide laundry services for 14 health care facilities including CDHA, 3 nursing homes and 2 hotels and are employed by Crothall Services Canada Inc. have voted 93% in favour of a strike to back their demands at the bargaining table.

"These women and men have been working side by side with employees of Capital Health, doing the same job for anywhere from \$3 - \$7 less per hour with inferior benefits, no pension or job security," says Joan Jessome, President of the Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU).

Laundry workers employed by Crothall Services are among the lowest paid workers in health care. A Laundry Worker 1 earns \$10.61 per hour and a Laundry Worker 2 earns \$11.04 per hour. "Crothall Services and the CDHA have been profiting on the low wages and inferior benefits paid to these workers. Last night the members of Local 24 said loud and clear, they have had enough," Jessome said.

March 23 & 24 have been set as conciliation dates.

Members of Local 24 are looking for significant improvements at the bargaining table to bring them in line with employees of Capital Health who work beside them in laundry services.

"The vote has serious implications for the 14 health care facilities which rely on clean laundry", says Jessome. "These workers provide a valuable service and they are asking to be treated with fairness and respect."

Together with laundry employees of Capital Health, they process 18 tonnes of laundry per day in the largest laundry facility in the Maritimes.

The strike vote was counted March 2 at 5:30pm at the Hugh Bell Lecture Hall at the Nova Scotia Hospital.

There are 64 members of Local 24. Their collective agreement expired in July, 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.

For more information or to arrange an interview with NSGEU President, Joan Jessome, Please contact:
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