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PRESS RELEASE

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NSGEU Calls for No Cuts to Deputy Sheriff Services

Halifax – The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) does not support any cuts to Deputy Sheriff services at various Justice centres across the province. The Union is responding to continuing concerns being expressed about the impacts of reductions to these services.

According to NSGEU President Joan Jessome, "We have advised the Employer that the proposed reductions are too extensive. From all that we have heard, there does not appear to be any need for thirteen term employees and ten permanent employees to have their hours reduced. In fact, our Deputy Sheriff members have made it very clear that public safety is at risk if these cuts go ahead."

Ms. Jessome said: "We also want to make it very clear that the Union has had no role in the government's plan to reduce the hours of work for Deputy Sheriffs. The Employer has been recently indicating that the conversion of casual Deputy Sheriffs has resulted in a higher complement of staff than is needed, but neither the Union nor its members have seen any evidence of this overcapacity."

She explained further that the Employer has been meeting with the Union as is required under the Collective Agreement. "We have been meeting recently with Public Service Commission and Department of Justice officials to see if they might reconsider their projected work reductions. We hope to hear from them shortly about their response to our suggestions."

Jessome concluded: "We are not going to rest until all the concerns of our members and the public about safety are fully addressed. We are also planning information sessions with Deputy Sheriffs around the province to hear the full extent of their concerns about these cuts."

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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 every day.

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