Called my the Minister of Health and Community Services
K Hawley/George
November 14, 2024

Registered Nurses' Union
Newfoundland & Labrador

Via Email/Postal Mail

March 15, 2024

Honourable Tom Osborne
Minister of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
Main Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Osborne:

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of concern regarding the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS). We have been approached by our Members and local media that suggest some NLHS managers may be engaging in unethical practices by purchasing and renting homes to internationally educated nurses and private agencies for their own personal benefit.

This practice raises serious ethical and potential conflict of interest issues. NLHS managers, who may be responsible for overseeing the recruitment and employment of internationally educated nurses, should not be using their positions for personal gain. Nor should they be profiting from the use of private agency nurses. This can create a perception of favoritism or bias in hiring and workplace decisions. This could also be viewed as a significant power imbalance between Employer and their employees. If substantiated, this undermines the integrity of the recruitment process and erodes trust within the healthcare system.

Furthermore, this practice may also have implications for the availability and affordability of housing for internationally educated nurses, who are important members of our healthcare workforce. If NLHS managers are capitalizing on housing opportunities for personal gain, it could exacerbate existing challenges related to housing accessibility and affordability for healthcare professionals, ultimately impacting recruitment and retention.

I urge you to investigate these claims thoroughly and take appropriate action to address any instances of unethical behavior within NLHS. It is imperative that we uphold the highest standards of integrity and transparency in all aspects of healthcare management to ensure the well-being of patients, healthcare professionals, and the public trust in our healthcare system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will take swift and decisive action to address these concerns and uphold the principles of ethical governance within NLHS. I am available to meet with you to discuss.

Sincerely,

Yvette

Yvette Coffey, RN
President

PO Box 416, St. John's, NL A1C 5J9 · TELEPHONE (709) 753.9961 · TOLL-FREE (800) 563.5100 · FACSIMILE (709) 753.1210 · info@rnunl.ca · rnunl.ca