

**2022 – 2025**

**PROVINCIAL  
COLLECTIVE  
AGREEMENT**

**between**



**and**

**NURSES' BARGAINING  
ASSOCIATION**

**April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2025**

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# PROVINCIAL COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

## ARTICLE 1 – PREAMBLE AND DEFINITIONS

### 1.01 Preamble

- (A) The Unions, Nurses' Bargaining Association, the Employers and the Health Employers Association of British Columbia agree to abide by the terms and conditions set out in this Provincial Collective Agreement.
- (B) For clarity and brevity throughout this Provincial Collective Agreement the term "HEABC" shall be used to describe the Health Employers Association of British Columbia.
- (C) Where the asterisk (\*) is used throughout this Agreement, it is agreed that the reference to twenty (20) work days leave of absence without pay is to be applied over the applicable calendar year. Should an employee terminate prior to completion of such year, the twenty (20) work days will be proportionately reduced. (Example: Six (6) months equals ten (10) work days. Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)
- (D) For the purpose of calculating benefits commencing the first pay period prior to September 30, 1993, the base day will be 7.2 hours.
- (E) For the purpose of calculating benefits effective April 1, 2013, the base day will be 7.5 hours.

### 1.02 Definitions

ASSOCIATION means Nurses' Bargaining Association.

BCHOA means the British Columbia Healthcare Office of Arbitration as described in the Letter of Agreement Re: Implementation of Improvements in Dispute Management; British Columbia Healthcare Office of Arbitration.

CALENDAR DAY means a twenty-four (24) hour period ending at midnight.

CALENDAR YEAR means a period of twelve (12) consecutive months commencing on the first day of January.

**CERTIFICATION** means the certification awarded by the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia to any Union included in the Nurses' Bargaining Association.

**COMMON-LAW SPOUSE** means two people who have cohabitated as spousal partners for a period of not less than one (1) year.

**CONSOLIDATED CERTIFICATION** means the certification awarded by the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia to the Nurses' Bargaining Association.

**DAY SHIFT** means a shift in which the major portion occurs between 0730 and 1530 hours.

**DEMOTION** means a change from an employee's position to one with a lower maximum salary level.

**EMPLOYEE** means any person who is covered by the certification awarded by the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia (or any succeeding Acts).

**EMPLOYER** means the corporation, society, person(s), organization, facility, agency, or centre (represented by the Health Employers Association of B.C.) as listed in the appendix attached to the certification issued by the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia.

**EVENING SHIFT** means a shift in which the major portion occurs between 1530 and 2330 hours.

**HEAD OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION** means the head office of the British Columbia Nurses' Union.

**HEAD OFFICE OF THE UNION** means the head office for each of the Unions included in the Nurses' Bargaining Association. The respective head offices shall be designated by each Union.

**NIGHT SHIFT** means a shift in which the major portion occurs between 2330 and 0730 hours.

**PROMOTION** means a change from an employee's position to one with a higher maximum salary level.

**SCHEDULED DAY OFF** means any day a regular full-time employee is not scheduled to work, other than a paid holiday.

**SHIFT** means the normal consecutive work hours scheduled for each employee (regular full-time, regular part-time or casual) which

occur in any twenty-four (24) hour period. In each twenty-four (24) hour period there shall normally be three (3) shifts, namely: day, evening and night shift.

STEWARD means an employee within the Employer's service elected or appointed by the Union or its members to represent the Union and its members.

TRANSFER means the movement of an employee from one position to another which does not constitute a promotion or demotion.

UNION means any Union included in the Nurses' Bargaining Association as the context requires, unless otherwise specifically stated.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE means a member of the staff of the Union or designated substitute.

WORKSITE means a facility, agency, centre, program, organization or location where an employee is assigned to work either at or from.

YEAR means a period from any given date in one month to the immediately preceding date twelve (12) months later.

## **ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT**

The purpose of the Agreement is to maintain a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between the Employer and employees and between the Union and the Employer, and to set forth certain terms and conditions of employment relating to remuneration, hours of work, benefits and general working conditions affecting employees covered by the Agreement.

All parties to the Agreement share a desire to provide quality health care in British Columbia, to maintain professional standards, to promote the well-being and increased efficiency of employees so that the people of British Columbia are well and effectively served.

The parties to the Agreement acknowledge with gratitude that they, and their members, work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of First Nations who care for and nurture these lands and have from time immemorial. The parties acknowledge the pervasive and ongoing harms of colonialism faced by Indigenous peoples. These harms include those described in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action and the Final Report of the National

Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' 231 calls to justice, and also include the widespread systemic racism against Indigenous peoples as users, patients, and staff in BC's healthcare system, as highlighted in the 2020 In Plain Sight report, including its 24 recommendations.

The parties are committed to confronting and healing systemic racism in our provision of healthcare services and recognize the importance of learning from Indigenous peoples and communities in developing a culturally safe and welcoming health care system for all.

## **ARTICLE 3 – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

### **3.01 General Rights**

The management of the Employer's operations and the direction of the working forces, including the hiring, firing, promotion and demotion of employees, is vested exclusively in the Employer except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement.

### **3.02 Employer Policies**

Employees shall be governed by written policies adopted by the Employer as publicized on bulletin boards, or by general distribution, provided such policies are not in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 4 – UNION RECOGNITION**

### **4.01 Union Recognition**

The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining agent for all employees for whom the Union has been certified.

### **4.02 Scope of Agreement**

This Agreement applies to all employees of the Employer who are included within the bargaining unit for which the Union is the certified bargaining agent.

## **ARTICLE 5 – UNION SECURITY**

### **5.01 Security**

- (A) Employees covered by the certification who are members of the Union, shall maintain their membership in good standing as a condition of continuing employment.

- (B) New employees covered by the certification shall become members of the Union, and shall maintain membership in good standing in the Union as a condition of continuing employment.

## **5.02 Union Deductions**

All employees who are covered by the certification with the Union shall, as a condition of continuing employment, authorize a deduction from their pay cheques of the amount of the dues, levies and assessments payable to the Union by a member of the Union. The Employer shall provide a copy of the authorization form, which has been forwarded by the Union, to each new employee.

Upon receipt of written notice from the Union, the Employer shall terminate the services of any employee who does not authorize the deduction as above.

The Employer agrees to deduct the amount of the Union dues, levies and assessments payable to the Union by an employee in the Union's bargaining unit.

The Union shall inform the Employer in writing of the amount to be deducted from each employee. The Union shall advise the Employer in writing sixty (60) calendar days in advance of any change in the amount to be deducted.

The Employer shall remit such dues, levies and assessments to the Union within twenty-eight (28) calendar days from the date of deduction, together with a written statement listing the employee's first name, last name, last four digits of the BCCNM Nurse ID number, phone number provided by the employee, increment step, worksite name, bargaining association affiliation and the pay periods covered, with start and end dates of the pay periods. The Employer will provide the dues report to the Union in either Microsoft Excel or .csv format provided that it can be done so at no additional cost to the Employer.

The Employer shall supply each employee, without charge, a receipt for income tax purposes shown on the T4 slip in the amount of the deductions paid to the Union by the employee in the previous year. Such receipts shall be provided to the employee prior to March 1 of the succeeding year.

Deductions for levies and assessments shall be a percentage of wages.

## **ARTICLE 6 – UNION RIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **6.01 Individual Agreement**

The Employer agrees not to enter into any agreement or contract with the employees covered by this Agreement individually or collectively which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

The Association and the Union agree not to enter into any agreement or contract with the Employers covered by this Agreement which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this Agreement, recognizing that the HEABC is the accredited bargaining agent.

### **6.02 Contracting Out**

The Employer agrees not to contract out bargaining unit work to any outside agency or individual that will result in the lay-off of employees within the bargaining unit. (See Appendix CC)

### **6.03 Employer's Business**

Employees required by the Employer to attend meetings or to attend hearings or to sit on a board established by the Employer, shall continue to receive their salary for the time periods as required. All provisions of this Collective Agreement such as overtime, call-back, etc., shall apply for the time periods as required above. The Employer shall reimburse employees for all expenses including reasonable travel time incurred by the employees during these time periods.

### **6.04 Stewards**

#### **(A) Recognition of Stewards**

The Employer recognizes employees who are designated by the Union as stewards to act on behalf of the employees.

#### **(B) Notification of Change of Stewards**

The Union shall supply the Employer with a list of the names of the stewards and shall advise the Employer of changes to that list, such changes to be made in writing.

#### **(C) Duties and Responsibilities**

The duties of stewards include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) investigating complaints of an urgent matter, and
- (2) investigating grievances, and
- (3) assisting employees in preparing and presenting a grievance in accordance with the grievance procedure, and
- (4) supervising ballot boxes and other related functions during ratification votes, and
- (5) attending meetings called by management, and
- (6) accompanying an employee, at their request, at a meeting called by the Employer, where disciplinary action is anticipated, and
- (7) meeting with new employees as a group during the orientation program, and
- (8) acting as appointees to the Union/Management Committee, and
- (9) accompanying an employee, at their request, at a respectful workplace meeting.

**(D) Conditions Governing Stewards**

Stewards shall be entitled to reasonable time while on duty without loss of regular pay and benefits to perform the above duties when they:

- (1) have received prior consent from their supervisor before leaving their work area such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, and
- (2) make every endeavour to complete their business in as short a time as possible, and
- (3) advise their supervisor of their return to the work area.

Stewards shall not interrupt the normal operations of the worksite.

**6.05 Union Representative Visits**

The Union shall inform the Employer in advance whenever the designated representatives of the Union intend to visit the Employer's premises for the purpose of conducting Union business. Such visits shall not interfere with the normal operations of the worksite.



Reasonable accommodation will be made to allow the Presidents of the Unions to have access to union members to conduct union business.

## **6.06 Superior Benefits**

Employees receiving benefits and/or wages specified in this Agreement, superior to those provided in this Agreement, shall remain at the superior benefit level which was in effect on the effective date of this Agreement, until such time as such superior benefits are surpassed by the benefits and/or wages provided in succeeding agreements. This provision applies only to employees on staff as of the effective date of this Agreement.

## **6.07 Personnel File**

### **(A) Employee Access**

Employees are entitled to read and review their personnel file and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, shall be entitled to inspect their performance evaluations, written censures, letters of reprimand, and other adverse reports. Upon request, employees shall be given copies of all such pertinent documents. The Employer further agrees that no personal files or documents on employees shall be kept outside of the personnel file, apart from payroll or health services files.

### **(B) Union Representative or Steward Access**

A Union representative or steward shall, upon written authority of the employee, be entitled to read and review an employee's personnel file in order to facilitate the investigation of a grievance. Upon request, the Union representative or steward shall be given copies of all such pertinent documents.

### **(C) Confidential Nature of Personnel File**

All documents within an employee's personnel file are considered to be confidential and shall remain within the sole jurisdiction and purview of the Employer and employee unless otherwise stipulated in this Agreement.

## **6.08 Copies of the Provincial Collective Agreement**

The Union and the Employer agree that every employee should be familiar with the provisions of this Agreement and their rights and

obligations under it. For this reason, the Employer shall make the Provincial Collective Agreement available to employees both in electronic and booklet form. An electronic copy of the Agreement shall be made available on the Union's and HEABC's websites.

The Employer shall print sufficient copies of the Agreement to provide two (2) copies for every three (3) employees per worksite. Should demand for printed copies be greater than supply, the Parties shall work together to identify unused copies, and if none are identified, additional printing shall be completed. The cost of printing shall be shared equally between the Union and the HEABC.

The Agreement shall be printed in a Union shop and bear a recognized Union label. The Union and the Employer shall agree on the size, print and colour of the Agreement and all other particulars prior to it being printed. Printing shall be completed as soon as possible after the signing of the Provincial Collective Agreement.

#### **6.09 New Employees**

At the time of hire, the Employer agrees to acquaint new employees with the fact that a Provincial Collective Agreement is in effect and with the conditions of employment as set out in the Articles dealing with Union Recognition, Security, Rights and Activities. The Employer further agrees to provide new employees with copies of the Provincial Collective Agreement and the names of the stewards.

A steward shall be advised of the date, time and place of orientation sessions for new employees in order that a steward shall be given a reasonable opportunity to talk to new employees. Stewards will be advised of the names of the new employees hired. There shall be no deduction of wages and benefits because of time spent by the steward during these sessions.

#### **6.10 List of New and Terminating Employees**

The Employer shall provide the Union with a monthly list of new and terminated employees specifying the last four digits of the BCCNM Nurse ID number, status, position and wage classification level of each employee.

#### **6.11 Bulletin Boards**

The Employer shall provide adequate space on bulletin boards for the exclusive use of the Union for the purpose of posting Union

business. The size and sites of the bulletin boards shall be determined by mutual agreement between the Employer and the Union.

## **ARTICLE 7 – STRIKES OR LOCK-OUTS**

During the term of this Collective Agreement the Union agrees that there shall be no strike and the Employer agrees that there shall be no lock-out.

Subject to any Labour Relations Board (or any succeeding body) directives, if an employee employed under the terms of this Collective Agreement refuses in good conscience to cross a legal picket line, the employee shall be considered to be absent without pay, and it shall not be considered a violation of this Agreement nor shall it be grounds for disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE 8 – UNION/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **8.01 Composition of Committee**

A Union/Management Committee shall be established for each Employer covered by this Agreement. The Employer and the Union shall each appoint a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) representatives to the Union/Management Committee.

Where there are fewer than four (4) nurses employed at a work-site, then the number of Union and management representatives may be limited to one each with an alternate.

### **8.02 Chair**

The Chair of the Union/Management Committee shall alternate between an Employer representative and a representative of the Union.

### **8.03 Meetings**

Meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call of the Chair as promptly as possible upon request in writing of either party.

### **8.04 Purpose of the Committee**

In order to foster better relations between the parties, the purpose of the Committee shall be to discuss matters of mutual concern including matters pertaining to the improvement of quality health care and safe nursing practice. The Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Union and to the Employer.

## **8.05 Scope of the Committee**

The Committee shall not have the power to bind the Union or its members, or the Employer to any decision or conclusion reached in discussion.

The Committee shall not have jurisdiction over any matter contained in this Collective Agreement, including its administration or renegotiation.

The Committee shall not supersede the activities of any other committee of the Union or of the Employer.

## **8.06 Stewards**

Stewards who attend Union/Management and Professional Responsibility Committee meetings outside of scheduled work hours shall be paid at straight time rates for time spent at the meetings.

# **ARTICLE 9 – GRIEVANCES**

## **9.01 Preamble**

If a difference arises between the Employer and an employee(s) or between the Employer and the Union concerning the interpretation, application, operation or any alleged violation of the Agreement, the employee(s) shall continue to work in accordance with the Agreement until the difference is settled.

The parties recognize that they have a common interest in resolving grievances. Such resolution is promoted through providing each other with background information and documentation directly related to the grievance so that informed discussion of the issue can take place at this level. The provision of information and documents does not affect the rights of the parties at arbitration.

## **9.02 Grievance Procedure**

The following procedure shall be used for the resolution of differences referred to in Article 9.01, other than for the suspension or dismissal of employees as set out in Article 9.06 and disputes under Article 9.03 or 9.07.

For the purposes of this Article, “Employer” means a person designated by the Employer to receive grievances. The phrase “the above expression of the parties’ “common interest” refers to the principle set out in the second paragraph of Article 9.01.

## **Step 1**

Within fourteen (14) calendar days of the occurrence of the difference, or within fourteen (14) calendar days of when the employee first becomes aware of the matter giving rise to the difference, the employee with the steward shall discuss the difference in a meeting with the Employer. The steward and the Employer may determine – at the conclusion of the meeting or within an agreed specified time (not to exceed seven (7) calendar days) – that the grievance is resolved or unresolved. Failing joint determination, the grievance is deemed to be unresolved.

## **Step 2**

- (A) If the grievance is not resolved through the Step 1 meeting, the Union may submit a written grievance to the Employer within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date that the grievance is determined (or deemed to be) unresolved at Step 1. The grievance must be submitted on the common grievance form, with all the information required by the form.
- (B) Following receipt of the written grievance, the Employer will provide a written response to the Union within seven (7) calendar days. The response must outline the basis upon which the grievance has been denied. The Union and the Employer will exchange legally permissible relevant documents, in accordance with the above expression of the parties' common interest, and then meet within a further twenty-one (21) calendar days, or as agreed by the parties, to discuss the grievance and attempt to resolve the issue(s).
- (C) Within a further seven (7) calendar days of the Step 2 meeting, if the grievance is not resolved, the Employer must provide a written response to the Union in accordance with the above expression of the parties' common interest.
- (D) The Union must refer its grievance to the BCHOA within ninety (90) calendar days after the Union receives the Employer's written response under Article 9.02(c).

A settlement of a grievance under Article 9.02 is without prejudice in any other grievance or arbitration unless the Union and HEABC agree in writing that the settlement is with prejudice.

The foregoing grievance procedure (Article 9.02) applies to Employer filed grievances in accordance with past practice (i.e., substitute “Employer” for “Union” and vice versa in the above procedure), other than those grievances set out in Article 9.03 and Article 9.07.

### **9.03 Single Employer Policy Dispute**

If a difference of a general nature arises between the Union or its members and a single Employer concerning the interpretation, application, operation or alleged violation of this Agreement or Memoranda, the aggrieved party may submit a written grievance to the other party within twenty-one (21) calendar days of becoming aware of the matter giving rise to the difference, and Step 2 of Article 9.02 shall apply. A copy of the grievance shall in every case be forwarded to the Union and the HEABC.

Where a Health Authority produces a written policy which has application throughout the Health Authority, a grievance regarding the policy may be filed at one worksite within the authority. If the grievance is resolved or arbitrated, the resolution reached will be binding on all Health Authority worksites.

If the grieved policy has limited application throughout the Health Authority, the Health Authority Representative at the Step 2 grievance meeting will confirm with the Union to which work sites the policy does not apply.

### **9.04 Application of Single Employer Arbitration Decisions**

- (A) The arbitration award arising from a grievance filed under Article 9.02 or 9.03 is binding on the single Employer, the employees of the Employer, and the Union or Association (as the context requires) in respect to that single Employer.
- (B) The decision is not binding on other members of HEABC or on the Union or Association (as the context requires) in respect to other members unless the Association and HEABC mutually agree.
- (C) HEABC and the Association may rely upon the arbitration award in arguing other arbitrations respecting other members of the Association.

## **9.05 Amending Time Limits**

If a party fails to comply with the time limits in Articles 9.02, 9.03, (Step 2) and 9.07, then the grievance shall be considered abandoned, unless the parties have agreed, in writing, to extend the time limits or as otherwise ordered by an arbitrator or Registrar of the BCHOA. Both parties will endeavour to meet the timelines, however, where it is not possible for one party to do so, agreement to extend the timeline will not be unreasonably withheld by the other party.

## **9.06 Resolution of Employee Dismissal or Suspension Disputes**

The following procedure shall be used for the resolution of disputes relating to the dismissal or suspension of an employee(s):

### **Step 1**

Within seven (7) calendar days of notice of the dismissal or the suspension (paid or unpaid), the Employer shall notify the head office of the Union of such termination or suspension.

### **Step 2**

Within a further fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of notice in Step 1 of this Article, the Union may institute the grievance procedure at Step 2 of Article 9.02.

## **9.07 Industry Wide Application Dispute**

### **Step 1**

If a difference of a general nature arises between the Union (on behalf of its members) and HEABC (on behalf of its members) concerning the industry wide interpretation, application, operation or alleged violation of this Agreement or Memoranda, the aggrieved party (the NBA or HEABC), shall submit a written grievance to the other party within twenty-one (21) calendar days of becoming aware of the matter giving rise to the difference. A copy of the grievance shall in every case be forwarded to the constituent Unions of the NBA and HEABC.

For the purposes of this Article, a difference of a general nature is defined as one arising as a matter of general interpretation/application or general operation/alleged violation based on the language of the Agreement.

## **Step 2**

The NBA and HEABC shall meet within sixty (60) days or such later time as may be mutually agreed to attempt to resolve the difference. Failing resolution, either party may submit the difference to arbitration pursuant to Article 10 within sixty (60) days of the meeting.

Notwithstanding any decision(s) issued pursuant to Article 9.02 or 9.03, the decision of the Arbitration Board under this Article shall be binding on all members of the NBA and all members of HEABC who are covered by this Agreement.

Where an arbitrator has been appointed to hear a dispute under Article 9.02 or 9.03 and the dispute is on the same issue as the matter in dispute under Article 9.07, the 9.02/9.03 arbitration proceedings will be held in abeyance. The interpretation established by the Article 9.7 Award shall then be applied on a remedial basis by the parties to resolve the 9.02 or 9.03 disputes on the same issue.

### **9.08 Clarification of the Nature of the Dispute**

If the NBA or HEABC disputes the article under which a grievance has been filed, the respondent may refer the issue of whether the grievance was filed under the appropriate procedure (i.e. Article 9.02, 9.03, 9.06 or Article 9.07), as a preliminary matter to the Registrar of the BCHOA.

### **9.09 Deviation from Grievance Procedure**

The Employer agrees that, after a grievance has been discussed at Step 1 of the grievance procedure, the Employer or its representatives shall not initiate any discussion or negotiations with respect to the grievance, either directly or indirectly, with the aggrieved employee without the consent of the steward or the Union.

### **9.10 Other Processes**

The following processes, set out in the Collective Agreement, are excluded from referral to the BCHOA:

- (a) Article 59;
- (b) Appendix A (except as set out in Appendix A, 9.2);
- (c) Appendix C; and,
- (d) LOA Implementation of Safe Staffing.



## **9.11 Information Sharing and Referral to Registrar**

In accordance with Article 9.01, each party agrees to share all legally permissible information during the grievance procedure. If, in the opinion of either party, the grievance procedure has failed to provide sufficient information to understand the merits of the other party's case, either party may apply to the Registrar of the BCHOA for an order for the production of documents and/or particulars. This application may be made immediately and does not require a referral to arbitration. Where there is an application, the Registrar must deal with it expeditiously and may order the respondent or both parties' documents and/or particulars.

## **9.12 Case Review Meeting**

The Employer and the Union must designate senior level representatives with the authority to resolve issues to review the outstanding issues as mutually agreed. The representatives may meet as they deem necessary to maintain the efficiency of the grievance procedure.

# **ARTICLE 10 – ARBITRATION**

## **10.01 Reference to the BCHOA**

- (A) Disputes shall be adjudicated within the following streams, all of which shall be precedent setting, final and binding, unless otherwise agreed:
- (1) Expedited arbitration or classification arbitration (as set out in Articles 21 and 22) – the parties to a dispute will be represented by employees of HEABC/HA, and NBA unions.
  - (2) Full arbitration (matters of mutual significance) – the parties to a dispute may be represented by counsel or otherwise as they may respectively elect.
- (B) Either the Union or the Employer and/or HEABC may refer their unresolved grievances through the process in Article 9 to the BCHOA, except as set out in Article 9.10. The party referring the grievance to the BCHOA must do so on the referral form and provide a copy to the other party, either HEABC or the Union as the case may be.

- (C) All disputes referred to the BCHOA will be scheduled on a first referred, first heard basis, except as otherwise agreed or as directed by the Registrar.
- (D) The BCHOA may determine whether any matter is arbitrable within the terms of the Collective Agreement and settle the question to be arbitrated.
- (E) The arbitrator shall not decide a dispute without a hearing. An arbitrator shall have the ability to define the scope and parameters of a hearing, in accordance with an arbitrator's powers under the Labour Relations Code. Each party will have the right to examine all witnesses called to give evidence at the hearing.

## **10.02 Expedited Arbitration**

- (A) All grievances are suitable for expedited arbitration, except grievances referred under Article 9.03 or Article 9.07. HEABC or the Union may require that a grievance referred to expedited arbitration be resolved by full arbitration, provided it notifies the other party and the BCHOA at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the day scheduled for the expedited hearing. Alternatively, the parties may agree that a matter referred to full arbitration be resolved by expedited arbitration.
- (B) All cases being referred to expedited arbitration should be identified to the Registrar of the BCHOA by the first business day of each month.
- (C) For cases referred to expedited arbitration, the Registrar of BCHOA will:
  - (1) Hold case management meetings, which may be held by conference call or in person as requested by the parties or directed by the Registrar;
  - (2) Assign, in consultation with HEABC and the Union, cases to the arbitrator based on the hearing dates previously confirmed by HEABC and the Union, and will notify the parties of the same;
  - (3) At the request of either party and/or as part of the case management process, assist the parties in reaching agreements, where possible, on pre-hearing matters in-

cluding: the articulation of the issue/or question in dispute, the material facts, disclosure of relevant and material documents, the evidence to be lead at hearing, including use of will say statements and/or limited viva voce evidence if necessary;

- (4) At the request of either party and/or as part of the case management process, the Registrar may review materials, which may include documents, particulars, will say statements, and joint statements of fact, prior to Arbitration to assist the parties;
  - (5) Make preliminary and procedural orders, or refer those issues to the arbitrator selected to hear the case;
  - (6) And, if the parties agree, assist with pre-hearing mediation of a case.
- (D) The Registrar shall administer a process that fosters conditions favourable to the orderly, constructive and expeditious settlement of disputes, including:
- (1) Enforcing a time frame of three (3) months from referral to expedited arbitration to hearing unless the Registrar, in their discretion, grants an order to extend the time frame;
  - (2) At least three (3) business days prior to the hearing, the parties will provide the arbitrator with the issues in dispute, the agreed statement of facts and the brief outlines of position;
  - (3) If any party fails to comply with an order of the Registrar, the Registrar has the discretion of making an order limiting the case they can make before the Arbitrator, including limiting or excluding evidence from the hearing;
  - (4) or limiting the scope of the claim or defence to the claim.
- (E) At the hearing, the party with the onus will make the first presentation which will include an opening statement, the remedy sought, the evidence in support and the party's written submission summarizing its position. The other party will then have the same opportunity to present its case. The parties' submissions should be short and concise and should include the jurisprudence that the parties are relying on.

- (F) The arbitrator will provide the parties with a written decision no later than twenty-eight (28) calendar days after the hearing.

## **ARTICLE 11 – DEFINITION OF EMPLOYEE STATUS AND BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT**

For the purpose of this Article “regularly scheduled” means any combination of shifts scheduled in advance and issued by the Employer. (Reference Article 25.05 – Posting of Work Schedules)

Employees at the commencement of their employment and at all times shall be kept advised by their Employer into which employee status they belong.

### **11.01 Restriction of Employee Status**

The status of all employees covered by this Provincial Collective Agreement shall be defined under one of the three definitions found in Articles 11.02, 11.03, and 11.04. If a dispute arises over the proper allocation of employee status, such dispute shall be resolved through Article 9 Grievances.

### **11.02 Regular Full-Time Employees**

#### **(A) Definition**

Regular full-time employees are those who are regularly scheduled to work the full hours of work as provided in Article 26.01 Hours of Work.

#### **(B) Benefit Entitlement**

Regular full-time employees are entitled to all benefits of this Agreement.

#### **(C) Seniority**

Regular full-time employees accumulate seniority in accordance with Article 13.01 (A) Seniority – Definition.

### **11.03 Regular Part-Time Employees**

#### **(A) Definition**

Regular part-time employees are those who are regularly scheduled to work a minimum of fifteen (15) hours or equiv-

alent per week but less than the full hours as provided in Article 26.01 Hours of Work.

Employees who are regularly scheduled to work a minimum of fourteen point four (14.4) hours or equivalent per week but less than fifteen (15) hours at the time of the transition to a 37.5 hour work week, will be deemed to be regular part-time.

The effective date for this provision is the same as the effective date for the 37.5 hour work week.

Regular part-time employees may hold positions at up to two worksites with the same Employer provided the employee's multiple positions do not exceed a total of 1.0 FTE.

**(B) Benefit Entitlement**

Regular part-time employees are entitled to all benefits of the Agreement on a proportionate basis with the exception of medical, extended health and dental plan coverage, LTD and group life insurance premiums, which shall be paid on the same basis as for regular full-time employees. (Reference Article 12 Anniversary Date and Increments; Reference Article 46 Medical, Extended Health and Dental coverage, LTD and Group Life Insurance Coverage.)

**(C) Seniority**

Regular part-time employees accumulate seniority in accordance with Article 13.01 (A) Seniority – Definition.

Where it will not result in overtime, the employer shall offer shifts to part-time employees on a seniority basis after exhausting the casual list.

**11.04 Casual Employees**

**(A) Definition**

Casual employees may be employed to work full shifts or part shifts on a continuous or intermittent basis in capacities such as:

- (1) Sickness relief.
- (2) Vacation relief.
- (3) Leave of absence relief.

- (4) Relief pending a regular employee appointment (Reference Article 17.02 Temporary Appointments).
- (5) Temporary work load, including but not limited to, supplemental shift care services provided to specific clients for palliative care purposes.
- (6) Paid holiday relief.
- (7) Overtime owing relief.
- (8) Maternity leave relief.
- (9) Client Specific Assignments from Home Support Agencies. These assignments are client specific, subject to cancellation without notice, and may be filled within the total discretion of the client. These assignments are deemed to be in compliance with Articles 11.04 (B) through (F) which shall not apply. (See also Appendix "Q")

#### **(B) Off Duty Rights**

When calls are made by the Employer for casual employees to report to work, the acceptance of such work shall be at the employee's discretion.

#### **(C) Letter of Appointment**

- (1) All casual employees shall receive a letter of appointment immediately following recruitment clearly stating their employment status, their classification and wage level, their worksite(s) (units, departments, or clinical service areas) and if the employee is seeking regular employment it shall be noted. This letter shall also include a mutually acceptable statement of the casual employee's days and shifts of availability for work of a casual nature, notation of any specialist qualifications held by the employee, and the mutually agreed units, departments and programs in which the casual employee will work.

The Employer may require a casual employee to work a minimum of 400 hours over a twelve (12) month period. Effective January 1, 2020, the Employer may also require a casual employee to work fifty percent (50%) of the 400 hours in March, June 15 – September 15, or December.

Distribution of the 200 hour requirement will be by mutual agreement by the Employer and the employee. These minimums shall be outlined in the letter of appointment, and (C)(5)(a) shall apply.

**(2) General Availability**

The commitment to availability specified in the letter of appointment shall be subject to mutually acceptable revision. Such revision will occur once per year or, if mutually agreed between the Employer and the employee, on a more frequent basis. The Employer will issue a revised letter of appointment to reflect approved changes to employee's general availability.

Casual employees who are not offered 400 hours over a twelve (12) month period, within their agreed upon availability, are not required to meet the minimum standard.

Casual employees' preferences for specific shifts or areas of work will not be accommodated at the expense of regular employees' schedules or areas of work. Casual employees will be expected to work in any area they are assigned to or moved to during a shift unless they do not have the requisite skills or orientation required to practice in that area.

**(3) Short-Term and Long-Term Availability**

(a) Except as noted in (C)(3)(b), all casual employees shall provide for each month availability schedules in writing (or by an alternative method contemplated in (E)(1)(7)) to the Employer. These schedules must be provided by the first day of the month prior to the start of the following month, and must indicate the shifts and days when they are not available, if that availability differs from their stated availability for the previous month.

(b) During June, July, and August, the casual employee's monthly availability shall not be inconsistent with their letter of appointment, apart from approved vacation periods.

- (c) The Employer may off casual employees the opportunity to provide their availability and book shifts as far as six (6) months in advance in writing (or by using an alternative method contemplated in (E)(I)(7)).
- (d) The Employer is not required to call casual employees who do not provide their availability as required in (C)(3)(a).
- (e) The Employer is not required to call casual employees for shifts for which they have indicated they are not available.

**(4) Casual Availability Bonus**

- (a) Where the Employer determines that there is a need to provide a casual availability bonus (CAB) for a specific unit, area or program, the Employer will determine the number of casual employees that are required to be on the CAB list for the specific unit, area or program. Such casuals will be eligible for a CAB where the following requirements are met:
  - (i) the Employer and casual employee meet to review the casual employee's general, short-term and long-term availability to assess whether such availability meets operational and relief needs;
  - (ii) where the availability meets operational and relief needs as per 4(a)(i), the casual employee accepts and works shifts 85% of the time that they are off in accordance with their agreed availability during a three (3) month period. In addition, no more than one half of the shifts refused are on evenings, nights and weekends within such periods.
- (b) At the end of each three (3) month period, casual employees who are eligible for the CAB shall receive a premium of two dollars (\$2.00) per hour for all hours worked within such period. This premium shall be in addition to any other applicable premium within the collective agreement.



**(5) Insufficient and Non-Availability**

- (a) Where the Employer requires a casual employee to work a minimum of 400 hours over a twelve (12) month period, the following shall apply:
  - (i) If the employee has worked less than 200 hours in the six (6) month period following the employee's start date, and any six (6) month period thereafter calculated from that start date, the Employer shall issue a letter to the employee which shall state the number of hours the employee has worked, and further advise that if the employee does not work the required minimum of 400 hours over the applicable twelve (12) month period or provide a bona fide reason for not doing so, then they may be removed from the casual register and their employment will end. This letter will be vetted by the manager prior to being sent to the employee by registered mail at their last known address or delivered by hand and will be copied to the Union.
  - (ii) If the employee has worked less than 400 hours over a twelve (12) month period following the employee's start date, and any twelve (12) month period thereafter calculated from that start date, the Employer shall issue a letter to that employee which shall state the number of hours the employee has worked in the preceding twelve (12) months and that, unless the employee provides a bona fide reason for not working the required minimum within thirty (30) days of receipt of the letter they may be removed from the casual register and their employment will end. This letter will be vetted by the manager prior to being sent to the employee by registered mail at their last known address or delivered by hand and will be copied to the Union. This letter will be deemed to be the notice to the Union described in Article 15.04.

- (iii) If the casual employee appears on more than one casual register with an Employer and has not worked any of the offered hours within a six (6) month period on one or more of such casual registers, the Employer may remove the employee from such registers and advise the employee via their preferred email address, copying the Union, advising that they may be removed from those casual register(s) where they have not worked unless they provide a bona fide reason for not accepting work within thirty (30) days of receipt of the letter. The letter will be copied to the Union.
- (b) Where the Employer declines to require a casual employee to work a minimum of 400 hours over a twelve (12) month period, the following shall apply:
  - (i) Where a casual employee has not accepted any work for a period longer than three (3) months the Employer and the Union shall meet to discuss the bona fides of the refusal and the continued employment of the employee.
  - (ii) Where there is no bona fide reason for the refusal of work and a further three (3) months has elapsed without any shifts worked by the employee the casual employee will be deleted from the casual register.
  - (iii) If the casual employee's monthly availability over a three (3) month period (excluding June, July, and August) is inconsistent with their availability specified in the employee's letter of appointment, the Employer and the Union shall meet to discuss the bona fides of the inconsistencies.

**(6) New Qualifications**

Casual employees will provide the Employer with documentation identifying any new specialist qualifications they have obtained. Such information shall be noted on the employee's personnel file and will be added to their letter of appointment at the next revision.

**(7) Orientation**

The Employer will provide casual employees with orientation to all the units, departments and programs mutually agreed in the employee's letter of appointment.

**(D) Casual Register**

- (1) A casual employee shall be registered for work in those units, departments and programs specified in the letter of appointment.

Casual employees may request placement on the register for additional units, departments or programs. All such requests must be in writing.

When the Employer identifies a shortage of casual employees on a particular unit, department or program, they will consider requests for placement on the register for those units, departments or programs, from existing casual employees before hiring additional casual employees. Such requests will not be unreasonably denied.

By mutual agreement with the Employer, casual employees will be added to the register for additional units, departments or programs. Where such agreement has been reached, a revised letter of appointment shall be issued.

- (2) The Employer shall maintain a master casual register which shall include a list of all casual employees employed by the Employer at that worksite in descending order of their seniority, the seniority hours, and the mutually agreed units, departments, and programs in which the casual employee will work.
- (3) Seniority on the master casual register shall be updated every three (3) months as of the last date of the payroll period immediately prior to January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 each year. The updated list shall be made available at the worksite.
- (4) For the purposes of selection to a vacancy, the Employer shall use seniority hours from the last date of the payroll period immediately prior to the posting closing date.

(E) **Procedure for Casual Call-In**

(l) The manner in which casual employees shall be called to work shall be as follows:

(1) The Employer shall offer casual work as defined in Article 11.04(A) to casual employees in order of seniority providing the casual employee:

(a) is registered for work in the unit, department or program where the work exists; and

(b) has the qualifications and capabilities to perform the work being relieved; and

(c) has been orientated to the unit, department or program.

Where the casual employee does not meet the above criteria, the Employer will pass onto the next casual employee.

(2) Exceptions to the above may occur to address the need to consolidate the skills of new graduates as per the Memorandum of Agreement on New Graduates (see Appendix "X").

(3) Notwithstanding (1) above, where the Employer has received forty-eight (48) hours' or less notice of a vacancy creating relief work as per Article 11.04(A), the first shift of the vacancy and any remaining shifts in that block may be filled as the Employer deems most efficient.

Where the shift pattern has not allowed for probationary casual employees to be properly assessed, the Employer may arrange for a maximum of three shifts out of seniority order with a supervisor or clinician, to conduct the assessment.

(4) Where a casual employee is called for a casual assignment which would attract overtime, they must so advise the Employer when asked. The Employer shall then have the option of calling another employee.

- (5) Where Employers are seeking casual employees for blocks of work which are known more than a month in advance, the Employer may post these blocks at the worksite and invite casuals to indicate their preferences for the work available. Work assignments shall be made in accordance with seniority as per (E)(I) above.

**(6) Telephone Call-In**

- (a) The Employer shall call by telephone only those casual employees on the register at a number provided by the employee. The Employer shall commence by calling the most senior employee in the register who meets the criteria specifically in (E)(I). The Employer shall permit the telephone to ring a minimum of eight (8) times.
- (b) All such calls shall be recorded in a log book showing the signature of the person making the call, the employee called, the position they are being called to fill, the time the call was made, and whether the employee accepts or declines the invitation to work or fails to answer the telephone. In the event of a dispute the Union shall have reasonable access to the log book and shall be entitled to make copies.
- (c) In the event that relief is requested with less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice, the date and time of the notification shall be recorded in the log book.

**(7) Alternative Process for Casual Call-In**

The Employer may introduce a process for the assignment of casual work which is an alternative to telephone call-in (set out in (E)(6)) using available technology. If the Employer elects to use such an alternative process it will advise the Union.

This alternative process may put the onus on the employee to respond to posted schedules or circulated off of work within a set time period which will

be specific to the alternative process used. By mutual agreement which shall not be unreasonably withheld, the Employer and the Union will determine how the procedures set out in (E)(6) need to be modified for the alternative process. The principles in Sections 11.04 (E)(1) to (5) shall be applied, and reasonable provisions will be made for employees who do not have reliable access to the internet or other technology.

- (8) A block of work is defined as the shifts between regular days off, or, if mutually agreed at a local level (i.e., unit/department/program or worksite), any combination of shifts.
- (II) An arbitrator shall have the authority to award monetary damages in response to a violation of Article 11.04(E)(I) by the Employer.
- (III) Straight time casual work that has been offered and accepted cannot be cancelled by either the casual employee or the Employer without a bona fide reason (e.g. circumstances beyond the employer or employee's control).

**(F) Wage Entitlement**

- (1) Casual employees shall be paid in accordance with the wage schedule.
- (2) Casual employees shall move to the next increment step upon completion of a total annual FT equivalent hours (1950) worked for the Employer at the increment step and for another health care employer signatory to this Agreement during the same period. In the case of hours worked for another employer, the hours must be worked within the Union bargaining unit and the employee shall have the onus of providing written verification of hours worked and employers will cooperate in providing verification promptly upon request. Credit for such hours will be effective the date the Employer receives the verification.
  - (a) A casual employee hired having less than one (1) years' experience (1950 hours) shall be placed at the first step of the increment scale.

- (b) A casual employee who terminates with an Employer listed in the attachments to the Consolidated Certification, and is employed within thirty (30) calendar days as a casual employee with an Employer under this Agreement, shall retain the increment step attained with the previous employer. Subsequent increments shall be granted pursuant to Article 11.04(F)(2).
- (c) A new casual employee hired and not eligible to retain their increment step pursuant to Article 11.04(F)(2)(b) shall receive credit for previous hours of experience on the wage increment scale as follows: One (1) increment step for each 1950 hours shall be granted for relevant nursing experience as determined by the Employer, provided not more than two (2) years have elapsed since such experience was obtained. Where more than two (2) years have elapsed since such experience was obtained, salary recognition shall be granted as follows:

One annual increment for every 1950 hours of previous experience minus one increment for each year in excess of two (2) years to a maximum of a five (5) year lapse. If more than five (5) years have lapsed, there shall be no credit for previous experience.
- (3) A regular employee who terminates their employment and is re-employed by the same Employer as a casual employee within thirty (30) calendar days shall retain the same increment step attained as a regular employee and be credited with the appropriate hours worked at that step.
- (4) When a casual employee applies for and receives a regular position with the same Employer with whom they have been employed, the employee shall either retain the same increment step attained as a casual or be placed at the increment step which recognizes their previous experience in accordance with the provisions of Article 52 (Previous Experience) whichever is higher, and shall advance to the next increment on their anniversary date of employment.

Notwithstanding the above, casual employees will also receive credit for all casual hours since the last increment on a prorated basis.

**(G) Benefit Entitlement**

**(1) Grievance and Arbitration**

Casual employees have access to the grievance and arbitration procedures. (Reference Article 9 – Grievances and Article 10 – Arbitration.)

**(2) Vacation Pay and Paid Holidays**

Effective April 1, 2023, casual employees shall receive 13% of their straight time pay, exclusive of all premiums, in lieu of scheduled vacations and paid holidays.

**(3) Other Benefits**

Casual employees shall be paid any earned shift premium, special allowance, overtime, on-call, call-back and call-back travel allowance pay, isolation allowance, and premium pay for work on a paid holiday.

The provisions of Article 56 Payment of Wages, Article 61 Wage Schedule Classifications, Article 62 Wage Schedules, and Article 6.06 Superior Benefits, apply to casual employees.

**(4) Health and Welfare Coverage**

**(a) Benefit Entitlement**

All casual employees who have completed 180 hours with the Employer may elect to enroll in the following benefit plans – medical services plan, dental plan, and extended health plan if the employee pays the full monthly premiums in advance to the Employer.

An employee making such an election under this provision must enroll in each and every one of the benefit plans and shall not be entitled to except any of them.

Where a casual employee subsequently elects to withdraw from the benefit plans, they must withdraw from all three plans. Casual employees failing to maintain the re-



quired payments shall have the benefit plans terminated. Thereafter the employee shall only be entitled to re-enroll if the employee so elects between December 1 and December 15 in any year to be effective the January 1 next following year.

**(b) Benefit Premium Refund**

Subject to the following conditions, casuals shall, on enrollment in the aforementioned benefit plans, be entitled to an annual lump sum refund paid by the Employer at the appropriate rate for the coverage obtained. Such payment is a reimbursement for each monthly benefit premium paid by the employee to a maximum of twelve (12) months.

- (i) In order to be eligible, casual employees, once enrolled in the plan, must have worked 975 hours with the Employer during the yearly period October 1 to September 30. This includes all regular and casual hours worked by the employee for the Employer.

Alternatively, if a casual employee works 500 hours in the period March, June 15 to September 15 or December, they will also be eligible for the benefit premium refund as identified above.

- (ii) The Employer shall pay eligible employees the lump sum refund by November 1 of each year.

- (5) Pursuant to the *Employment Standards Act*, casual employees will be entitled to the minimum standards for paid illness or injury leave.

**(6) Benefits for Casual Employees in Temporary Appointments**

If a casual employee accepts a temporary appointment pursuant to Article 17, they will have their status changed to regular for the duration of the time worked in the temporary appointment and then will revert to casual status upon the conclusion of the temporary appointment. The employee will receive regular benefits for the entire duration, with the exception of long-term disability, which they will receive for a maximum of two (2) years following the commencement of

the temporary appointment and the employee will not be eligible to make a successive disability claim.

Notwithstanding the above, these benefits do not apply to temporary appointments under Article 17.02(A)

(H) **Seniority**

Seniority for casual employees is defined as the total number of hours worked by the employee at the worksite up to a maximum of the annual full-time equivalent (1950) hours per year.

\*\* The calculation of seniority prior to April 1, 2013 will be based on 1879.2 hours.

Casual employees shall be entitled to accumulate seniority in accordance with Article 13.01(B) Seniority – Definition.

Casual employees, while receiving Workers' Compensation Benefits (wage loss replacement and rehabilitation benefits) will, upon return to work, be credited with seniority. This credit will be based on the number of hours worked as a casual employee during the twelve (12) month period preceding the date of illness or accident, calculated as follows:

- (1) Determine the number of hours worked in the twelve (12) month period.
- (2) Divide by fifty-two (52) weeks.
- (3) Multiply by the number of weeks on approved Workers' Compensation Benefits (wage loss replacement and rehabilitation benefits).

If the employee has held casual status for less than twelve (12) months preceding the date of illness or accident, then this shorter period will form the basis of the calculation.

A casual employee who is the successful applicant on a regular position:

- (i) is entitled to seniority credit in the regular position for the total number of hours worked as a casual at all worksites of a health care employer signatory to this Agreement up to a maximum of the annual full-time equivalent 1950 hours per year; and

- (ii) the casual seniority hours worked at all worksites referred to in (i) above will be extinguished.

**(I) Overtime Pay**

- (1) A casual employee shall be entitled to overtime pay in accordance with Article 27.05 in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The hours of work in one day exceed either:
    - (i) the normal daily full shift hours as defined in Article 26.01 Hours of Work; or
    - (ii) the length of the extended shift offered and accepted.
  - (b) For any shifts worked in excess of four (4) consecutive extended shifts where the shift length is greater than eight (8) hours.
  - (c) For any shifts worked in excess of six (6) consecutive shifts where the shift length is between seven and one-half (7.5) and eight (8) hours.
  - (d) For any shifts worked in excess of five (5) consecutive shifts where three (3) or more of the five (5) are greater than eight (8) hours in length.
  - (e) For any shifts worked in excess of 6 consecutive shifts where four (4) or more of the six (6) shifts are between seven and one-half (7.5) and eight (8) hours in length.
- (2) Overtime for shift care and client specific nursing assignments will be payable in accordance with current practice. (Reference Article 11.04(A)(5) and 11.04(A)(9)).

**(J) Probationary Period**

- (1) Newly hired casual employees will be probationary during their first three months of employment or 487.5 hours worked, whichever is greater.
- (2) For nurses working client specific assignments from home support agencies, the probation period for newly hired casual employees shall be 487.5 hours worked.

**(K) Employer Approved Education Programs**

Casual employees attending Employer approved education programs shall be subject to the requirements pursuant to Article 35.03(E) – Employer Approved Education Leave.

**ARTICLE 12 – ANNIVERSARY DATE AND INCREMENTS**

**12.01 Definition**

Increment step means the annual gradation of wages within a classification as set out in Article 61 Wage Schedule Classifications.

**12.02 Anniversary Date**

A regular employee's initial date of current employment with the Employer as a regular employee shall be their anniversary date for the purpose of determining benefits and for the purpose of determining increment anniversary date. (Reference Article 6.06 Superior Benefits and Article 12.03 Increments).

**12.03 Increments**

A regular employee shall be entitled to increments based on a year's length of service subject to Article 37 Leave – General.

**ARTICLE 13 – SENIORITY**

This Article is effective on the implementation date as defined in the Consolidation of Certifications Appendix.

**13.01 Definition**

**(A) Regular Employee**

Seniority for a regular employee is defined as the length of the employee's continuous employment (whether full-time or part-time) from the date of commencement of regular employment, plus any seniority accrued, while working as a casual employee of the Employer.

**(B) Casual Employee**

Seniority for a casual employee is defined as the total number of hours worked by the employee at the worksite up to a maximum of the annual full-time equivalent 1950 hours per year. A regular employee who, at the discretion of the Employer,

transfers to casual status or who voluntarily resigns their employment and is rehired by the same Employer as a casual employee within thirty (30) calendar days shall retain their seniority accrued as a regular employee and shall maintain all accumulated seniority and benefits to the date of the transfer.

### **13.02 Portability of Seniority**

Seniority relates to seniority with the Employer and is not portable with the exception of 51.02(H).

### **13.03 Seniority – Maintained and Accumulated**

Seniority shall be maintained and accumulated under the following conditions:

- (a) while in receipt of Workers' Compensation benefits (wage loss replacement and rehabilitation benefits);
- (b) absence due to maternity leave as provided for in this Agreement;
- (c) absence due to any paid leave for the period of the leave;
- (d) absence due to the conduct of Union business;
- (e) absence due to lay-offs, for the first twenty (20) work days;
- (f) absence due to a general unpaid leave of absence, for the first twenty (20) work days; and
- (g) absence while on a long-term disability claim (including the qualifying period).

For time periods in excess of those expressed above, seniority shall be maintained but not accumulated.

### **13.04 Employment in Excluded Positions and Within Other Bargaining Units**

- (A) An employee accepting a position of a continuous nature which is with the same Employer but outside of their bargaining unit, shall retain their seniority accumulated up to the date of leaving the bargaining unit, for a period of ninety (90) calendar days.

- (B) An employee temporarily substituting in an excluded position or within another bargaining unit, shall continue to accumulate their seniority. The maximum term of any such substitution in an excluded position shall be no greater than twenty-four (24) months in length unless otherwise agreed to with the Union.

### **13.05 Merged Seniority Lists**

Seniority lists for employees covered by this collective agreement will be merged regardless of Union membership.

### **Preamble**

The parties agree to standardize seniority lists and to provide additional member information to the NBA so that it can better communicate with its members.

### **13.06 Seniority Lists**

- (A) On the last date of the payroll period immediately prior to January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each calendar year, the Employer shall post master lists showing the seniority of all employees at the worksite and separate lists showing the seniority of all employees within each Union. The lists shall be electronically posted or where electronic posting is not possible on each Union bulletin board and a copy shall be forwarded to the Head Office of each of the Unions.

The seniority list shall contain the following information:

- (i) first name, middle name(s) (where provided by the employee) and last name;
- (ii) preferred name, where provided by the employee;
- (iii) nurse type (LPN, RN, RPN), where possible;
- (iv) job status and posted FTE (regular full-time, regular part-time, casual);
- (v) hire dates;
- (vi) wage schedule classification;
- (vii) increment step;

- (viii) last four digits of the BCCNM Nurse ID number (Union copy only);
  - (ix) anniversary date;
  - (x) seniority date;
  - (xi) seniority hours;
  - (xii) job titles;
  - (xiii) worksite.
- (B) Non-Health Authority Employers/Providence Health Care (PHC) will not be required to manually compile or modify systems to provide increment step and anniversary date.
- (C) The Employer will provide each seniority list to the Union in either Microsoft Excel or .csv format provided that it can be done so at no additional cost to the Employer.

#### **ARTICLE 14 – PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

- (A) All regular employees shall be probationary during their first three (3) months of employment. Upon the completion of this probationary period, the employee shall be granted seniority dating from the first day of employment with the Employer.

The term “three (3) months” is defined as the period from any given date in one month to the immediately preceding date three (3) months later.

- (B) By mutual written agreement between the Employer and the Union, the probationary period may be extended.
- (C) During the probationary period, the employee may be transferred or dismissed by the Employer if the Employer finds the employee to be unsuitable, providing the factors involved in suitability could reasonably be expected to affect work performance.

#### **ARTICLE 15 – TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

##### **15.01 Employee Termination**

- (A) Regular employees other than those serving a probationary period, shall give twenty-eight (28) calendar days written no-

tice of termination to a representative designated by the Employer with the authority to accept such written notice.

- (B) In addition to the twenty-eight (28) calendar day notice, regular employees in positions above the level of general staff nurse shall inform the Employer of their intention to terminate as soon in advance as possible.
- (C) The period of notice as set forth in (A) above must be for time scheduled to be worked and must not include accrued vacation, unless such vacation has been previously scheduled and approved in accordance with Article 45.04 (Scheduling of Vacation).
- (D) Provided that twenty-eight (28) days' notice in advance of commencement of vacation has been given to the Employer, a retiring employee is exempt from the provisions of (C) above and may schedule any portion of their accrued vacation entitlement immediately prior to retirement.

#### **15.02 Waiver of Notice**

The Employer may waive the written notice as set forth in Article 15.01.

#### **15.03 Notice – Penalty**

A regular employee who fails to give twenty-eight (28) calendar days' notice of termination shall be paid their earned vacation entitlement less two percent (2%); for example; an employee entitled to 8% shall be paid 6%; an employee entitled to 10% shall be paid 8%; etc.

#### **15.04 Employer Terminations**

The Employer shall notify the Union of all employee terminations within seven (7) calendar days of the notice of termination. (Reference Article 9.06 Resolution of Employee Dismissal or Suspension Disputes.)

Employer terminations are subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure. (Reference Article 9 Grievances and Article 10 Arbitration.)



## **ARTICLE 16 – EMPLOYEE EVALUATION**

### **16.01 Evaluations**

Formal written performance evaluations of each employee shall be carried out during the probationary period. Not less than annually thereafter, Employers will provide employees with performance feedback.

### **16.02 Employee Rights**

- (A) When such a formal written evaluation is carried out the employee shall be made aware of the evaluation and shall signify in writing awareness of the evaluation. If an employee disagrees with the evaluation, then the employee may object in writing to the evaluation, and such objection shall be retained by the Employer with the evaluation.
- (B) An employee shall be entitled, upon reasonable notice, access to their personnel file and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, shall be entitled to inspect the formal written evaluation and all written censures, letters of reprimand and adverse reports of performance evaluations. An employee shall be made aware of all such evaluations, censures, letters and reports and upon written request shall be provided with copies of the same.
- (C) Any employee who disputes any censure, reprimand or adverse report may have recourse through the grievance procedure and the eventual resolution thereof shall become part of the employee's personnel record with such amendments or deletions that may be requisite.

### **16.03 Records Removed**

#### **(A) Records of Disciplinary Action**

Upon request of the employee, all record of any disciplinary action taken by the Employer shall, with the exception of suspensions, be removed from the employee's file and destroyed eighteen (18) months after the date of the incident. Record of suspensions will remain on file for a period of eighteen (18) months following the expiry of the suspension.

The foregoing provisions apply provided that no further disciplinary action has occurred within the intervening period.

**(B) Letters of Expectation**

Upon request of the employee, a letter of expectation shall be removed from the employee's file and destroyed eighteen (18) months after the date of the letter.

The foregoing provision applies provided that the behaviour or conduct that resulted in the letter of expectation being issued has not reoccurred within the intervening period.

**ARTICLE 17 – VACANCY POSTINGS**

**17.01 Postings**

(A) The Employer shall post notice of all nursing vacancies, describing the position, department, worksite(s), the date of commencement, hours of work, a summary of the job description and the required qualifications. Multi-site postings shall specify the home work location for the position. Where the Employer has the capability to do so, all vacancies shall be posted electronically.

(B) Positions will be posted twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a period of seventy-two (72) hours. The Employer will make selection decisions within seven (7) business days of the posting close date, unless there is a bona fide reason to amend this timeframe subject to mutual agreement between the Employer and the Union.

A copy of each new electronic posting will be emailed to the steward coordinator or designate at the worksite.

(C) The Employer will notify the successful applicant by email notification to the employee's preferred email address. In circumstances where the Employer does not have the capacity for email notification for the posting process, the Employer shall utilize another manner of notification as per the Employer's operational policy. Once the notification has been sent and confirmation of receipt received, the employee shall accept or decline the position within forty-eight (48) hours of the time of confirmed receipt of offer. In the event that the employee is unavailable to respond, they may submit a response through a designate. If the Employer does not receive a response within this time period, the job will be offered to the next eligible applicant.

- (D) Notwithstanding Article 17.01(A) above, nursing vacancies in mental health services and in long term care facilities will be dual posted for RNs and RPNs. The Employer will evaluate its unfilled vacancies and determine if other opportunities for dual posted positions exist.
- (E) The Employer will post all Nurse 3 and 4 positions without the requirement for a BScN degree.
- (F) Notwithstanding Article 17.01(A), 17.01(B), 17.01(C) and 17.01(D) above, if an employee is promoted or transfers into a new position within ninety (90) days of commencing work in a previous position, the Employer may award the resulting vacancy in the previous position to the next eligible candidate for that position without re-posting the vacancy.

## **17.02 Temporary Appointments**

- (A) The Employer may make a temporary appointment, without posting, to a vacant position provided such position is one in which the former incumbent has terminated employment with the Employer. The temporary appointment shall not exceed thirty (30) work days, unless the Union and the Employer mutually agree to extend this time limit.
- (B) The Employer may make a temporary appointment to a position in which the present incumbent has been granted leave of absence. Where such leave of absence is for a period in excess of nine (9) calendar months, the Employer shall post a notice relative to the nursing vacancy, including the expected duration of the position. Such temporary employment shall not exceed twenty (20) months, unless the Union and the Employer mutually agree to extend this time limit. The Employer shall advise the Union of such long-term appointments.
- (C) An employee that accepts a temporary appointment up to twenty (20) months in length shall commit to remain in the appointment for its entire duration unless the employee has a bona fide reason.

Notwithstanding the above, within the first thirty (30) days in the position, the employee may elect to leave the position and return to their previously held position. If the employee elects to leave the position, they will give twenty-eight (28) days' notice to the Employer. Employers will not be required to repost

the temporary appointment and can select the next eligible candidate.

A casual employee who holds a temporary appointment may apply on any regular position which is available during the term of the appointment. If the casual employee is the successful candidate for the position, then that position shall be held for the casual employee until the term of the current temporary appointment is complete.

A regular employee who holds a temporary appointment will be able to apply on any regular position which may become available during the term of the temporary appointment provided that the vacancy arises in the same unit where the temporary appointment exists.

A regular employee who holds a temporary appointment may apply on any regular position outside of the unit where the temporary appointment exists, where it results in a 0.08 or greater increase in their FTE of their permanent position or is a promotion. A regular employee who holds a temporary appointment may apply on any other position outside of the unit where the temporary appointment exists within eight (8) weeks of the expiration of the temporary appointment.

The Employer may, at their discretion, release the employee into the regular position which they have been awarded. In the alternative, the Employer may post and fill the regular position with another employee in accordance with this Article until such time as the successful applicant for the position is released from the temporary appointment.

If a casual employee accepts a temporary appointment, they will have their status changed to regular for the duration of the time worked in the temporary appointment and then will revert to casual status upon the conclusion of the temporary appointment. The employee will receive regular benefits for the entire duration, with the exception of long-term disability, which they will receive for a maximum of two (2) years following the commencement of the temporary appointment and the employee will not be eligible to make a successive disability claim.

- (D) A regular employee who is assigned to, or on their own volition, fills a temporary appointment shall return to their former position and pay rate without loss of seniority and accrued perquisites when the temporary appointment ends.
- (E) In the event that an applicant for the posted position is not available to start the position within four (4) weeks of the commencement date of the temporary posting, the Employer shall not be required to consider such application.

### **17.03 Temporary Positions**

- (A) The Employer may create regular temporary positions for up to six (6) months duration for vacation relief or skill consolidation.
- (B) The Employer may create regular temporary project positions (i.e., grant funded, pilot projects, or term specific assignments) for up to twelve (12) months' duration, with the exception of capital projects which may be posted for up to thirty-six (36) months. These positions are not renewable after the end date of the project, unless the Union and Employer agree to renew/extend the time limits.
- (C) These positions will be posted and filled in accordance with Article 17.01 Postings. The posting will include the projected end date of the position. A casual employee who bids into any vacancy pursuant to 17.03(A) and (B) above will have their status changed to regular for the duration of the time worked in the temporary position and will then revert to casual status. Internal regular employees will return to their previous status and external candidates will return to their pre-employment status. Employees in these positions will be given a minimum of ten (10) calendar days' notice of any change to the projected end date of the position.

### **17.04 Seasonal Part-time Positions**

- (A) For the purposes of this Article of the collective agreement, seasonal part-time positions are positions that are created by the Employer to address ongoing staffing challenges, such as those in geographic locations that have seasonal changes in service delivery needs.

- (B) A seasonal part-time position may be created by compressing a specified annual FTE into a smaller portion of a year (for example, an employee could work a 0.5 FTE compressed into full-time hours over a six (6) month period). During the remaining months (for example, the remaining six (6) months), the employee would be under no obligation, and could not be compelled, to accept any scheduled or unscheduled work with the Employer. These positions will be posted pursuant to Article 17 – Vacancy Postings.
- (C) Employees working in seasonal part-time positions shall be covered by the provisions of this Agreement except as provided otherwise below.
- (D) An employee working in a seasonal part-time position may choose to be paid either:
  - (1) for those hours actually worked; or
  - (2) as a part-time FTE (for example, in the situation described in Article 17.04(B) above, as a 0.5 FTE) over the whole course of the year, both when working the compressed full-time hours and when not working during the remainder of the year.
- (E) Seasonal part-time employees are entitled to all provisions of this Agreement pursuant to Articles 11.03(B) & (C).
- (F) A seasonal part-time position may be eliminated at the discretion of the Employer upon sixty (60) days' notice to the employee. If the seasonal part-time position is eliminated by the Employer, the employee that had been working in the position may elect to receive the full benefit of the seasonal part-time position (or a proration thereof).

The employee will be entitled to all displacement rights under Article 19 and may elect to make their displacement choice either when the notice is received or when they return to work. If they choose to make their choice when they return to work, their choice will be based on the vacancies and seniority list current at that time.

#### **17.05 Regular Relief Positions**

- (A) Where the Employer believes that it is operationally more efficient and cost effective to regularize relief for work as de-

fined in Article 11.04(A), the Employer may establish regular relief positions. To ensure the full utilization of these positions, the Employer may reassign to regular relief, work previously assigned to a casual employee. The Employer shall post and fill these positions in accordance with Article 17.01 Postings.

Regular relief positions will have a master rotation in accordance with Article 25 and are not required to be replaced when on leave.

A relief employee is a regular employee who is utilized for work as defined in Article 11.04(A) on designated unit, department, or program, or a series of units, departments or programs at or from a designated worksite(s), which shall be indicated on the posting.

### **17.06 Multi-Site Relief Positions**

Where appropriate, a relief employee may be required to perform work at more than one worksite of the Employer. All expenses incurred will be paid by the Employer.

### **17.07 Regular Flex Positions**

- (A) The employer may create unit, facility or Health Authority-based regular flex positions designated to fill short-term and long-term vacancies.
- (B) Regular flex positions will be posted as a 0.8 FTE position. Employees working in regular flex positions will be booked six (6) weeks in advance for 0.4 FTE, and may be scheduled for short-notice shifts for the remaining 0.4 FTE.
- (C) Regular flex employees will be paid a 1.0 FTE salary, inclusive of benefits, regardless of whether they were called in to fill a shift.
- (D) Regular flex positions will not be included on the master work schedule.
- (E) Insufficient notice per Article 25.08 will not apply to the scheduling of the remaining 0.4 FTE.
- (F) The parties will meet within ninety (90) days of ratification to determine the logistics of implementation of these positions.

### **17.08 Advanced Hire Positions**

- (A) The Employer may post regular advanced hire positions in anticipation of expected needs or vacancies.
- (B) Once the expected position becomes available, the Employer may appoint the advanced hire to that position without the need to further post under Article 17.01.
- (C) Notwithstanding the above, the Employer will not make any advance hire appointments until the completion of internal schedule changes pursuant to Article 25.03. The advanced hire will not participate in the internal schedule change.
- (D) The Employer may place an advanced hire employee into a regular or temporary unfilled vacancy on the unit on which they have been working provided that the vacancy is equal to their existing FTE (F/T to F/T and P/T to P/T within 0.08 of their FTE). The Employer will provide the employee with a minimum twenty-eight (28) days' notice of this placement unless otherwise agreed by the employee.

### **17.09 Increasing or Decreasing Regular Part-Time Employee FTE Status**

- (A) Where an increase or decrease in hours is required in a unit, department, or program, the Employer will determine where these hours would be best utilized/reduced. Further, where the Employer's scheduling objectives are met, the Employer will offer a part-time employee, by seniority, the opportunity to have the hours in their existing schedule increased or decreased. Where the employee accepts the offer, there shall be no requirement for displacement notice or vacancy posting of that position. This provision shall not apply if it results in a change of employee status.
- (B) Where a change in scheduled hours results in an on-going change in an employee's FTE status of +/- 0.08 or less, the Employer will not be required to issue displacement notice to the incumbent. Where displacement is triggered, the part time employee may waive displacement and select a line on the rotation. A change under this clause shall be limited to once a year except by mutual agreement.



## **17.10 Posting of Successful Candidate**

The name of the successful candidate shall be posted within seven (7) calendar days of making the appointment(s).

## **ARTICLE 18 – PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS AND DEMOTIONS IN THE FILLING OF VACANCIES OR NEW POSITIONS**

### **18.01 First Consideration**

- (A) The Employer agrees that when a vacancy occurs or a new position is created at the worksite which is within the Union bargaining unit, the Employer shall give its employees, provided there are no employees currently on lay-off, first notice and first consideration in filling the vacancy or new position. Each employee who applies for the vacancy or new position shall be given equal opportunity to demonstrate fitness for the position by formal interview and/or assessment. Where an employee within the bargaining unit is not appointed to fill the vacancy or new position, they shall be given, upon request, an explanation as to why their application was not accepted. The request for reasons must be made within fourteen (14) calendar days of becoming aware that the employee is not the successful candidate, pursuant to Article 17.10. The Employer shall provide such reasons within a further fourteen (14) calendar days.

### **(B) Non-Specialty Positions**

The parties agree to expedite the filling of vacancies where a Nurse Level 1 or Nurse Level 3 applies on non-specialty vacancies within their same level (N1 to N1 position or N3 to N3 position) and within or across one or more of the enumerated program areas below without the need for an interview process and based on seniority. Applicants must possess the registration, skills and abilities as set out in the job description. Nurses will be provided with the usual unit/ program orientation.

An employee applying on a non-specialty position will be deemed qualified and competent and will not need to go through the interview process where they move within or across the following program areas:

- (i) General medical/surgical inpatient units
- (ii) Community services (e.g. home health, primary health care, mental health)
- (iii) Residential care Nurses choosing to move from residential care to acute care may be required to participate in an informal conversation with the manager of the acute care unit to discuss the prospect for a successful transition.

**(C) Rural/Pediatric**

Where an employee is applying for a vacancy in either a rural or pediatric program, an employee may be required to participate in an interview process.

**(D) Mechanism for management to discuss patient safety and/or practice concerns**

After the position has been awarded to the senior internal N1/N3 applicant, in situations where the work environment and patient population is significantly different than the nurse has experience with, and if the manager has patient safety or practice concerns, the manager will:

- (i) Meet the successful applicant, with the union steward, share the concerns and describe the program/unit's usual orientation; and
- (ii) Proceed with the orientation, which may include an assessment of the individual's potential for successful transition.

## **18.02 Filling Vacancies**

In the filling of vacancies, new positions, transfers or promotions, appointments shall be made to the employee with the required qualifications, and level of competency and efficiency as required by the position specifications, and where such requirements are equal, seniority shall be the determining factor.

The Employer will make all reasonable efforts to place the successful employee in the position within thirty (30) days of the posted start date.

### **18.03 Qualifying Period**

If a regular employee is promoted or transferred to a position, then that employee shall be considered a qualifying employee in their new position for a period of ninety (90) calendar days.

If a regular employee is promoted or transferred to a position either within or outside the certification and is found to be unsatisfactory, they shall be returned to their previously held position.

If a regular employee is promoted to a position, either within or outside the certification, and finds the position to be unsatisfactory, they shall be returned to their previously held position.

### **18.04 Orientation and Training**

The parties to the collective agreement recognize the value of orientation programs for employees and that the responsibility for providing such programs lies with the Employer. The Employer agrees to provide such orientation in a manner it deems appropriate to employees new to the worksite or new to the unit, department or program to enable the employee to adjust.

Orientation shall include:

- (a) fire and disaster plan
- (b) organizational structure
- (c) relevant policies and procedures
- (d) physical layout of the worksite and unit
- (e) duties of the position

Employees required to attend such programs will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

### **18.05 Returning to Formerly Held Position**

#### **(A) From Outside of Bargaining Unit**

The returning employee who was promoted outside of the certification shall return without loss of seniority and accrued benefits and shall be slotted at the increment step to which they would have been entitled had the promotion not occurred. These terms and conditions apply for a period of ninety (90) calendar days from the date they commence work

in the new position. (Reference Article 13.04 – Employment in Excluded Positions and Within Other Bargaining Units.)

**(B) From Within Bargaining Unit**

A regular employee promoted or transferred within the certification and returning to their formerly held position shall do so without loss of seniority or accrued benefits.

**(C) Other Employees Affected**

Any other employee who was promoted or transferred as a result of the promotions or transfers as stated above, shall be returned to their formerly held position under the same terms and conditions as stated in (B) above.

**18.06 Salary on Promotion**

A promoted employee shall receive the lowest step in the new increment structure which shall give her a minimum monthly increase of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The maximum rate of the new increment structure shall not be exceeded because of the application of this provision.

The employee shall receive the new pay rate from the first day worked (including orientation) in the position.

**18.07 Increment Anniversary Date**

A promotion shall not change an employee's increment anniversary date. (Reference Article 12 – Anniversary Date and Increments.)

**18.08 Relieving in Higher- or Lower-Rated Position**

- (A)** An employee relieving in a higher-rated position shall receive the rate of pay attracted by the position. The Employer will apply the promotional language (18.06) and the employee will receive the higher rate of pay from the first day worked in the position.
- (B)** If a regular employee is temporarily assigned to a lower-rated position, the employee shall incur no reduction to wages or benefits.
- (C)** A casual employee who accepts a shift and is subsequently reassigned to a lower-rated shift shall incur no reduction to wages or benefits.

- (D) An employee who voluntarily accepts a shift will be paid the appropriate rate of pay for that position.

### **18.09 Voluntary Demotion**

An employee requesting a voluntary demotion from a higher-rated position and who is subsequently demoted to the lower-rated position shall be paid on the increment step appropriate to the employee's recognized years of experience (reference Article 52.01 Previous Experience). A voluntary demotion shall not change an employee's anniversary date.

## **ARTICLE 19 – LAY-OFF & RECALL**

This Article is effective on the implementation date as defined in the Consolidation of Certifications Appendix.

These provisions shall be utilized to protect regular employees, wherever possible, from loss of employment, with the exception of employees who are dismissed for cause.

### **19.01 Displaced Employees**

In the event of a reduction in the work force, regular employees shall be laid-off in reverse order of seniority, provided that there are available employees with greater seniority who are qualified and willing to do the work of the employees laid-off.

An employee who is qualified and yet unwilling to do the work shall be laid-off.

#### **(A) Notice to the Union**

At the time notice of displacement is issued, a copy of the notice shall be sent to the Union steward.

#### **(B) Displaced Employees' Options**

A meeting will be arranged between the displaced employee and his/her shop steward and Employer representative(s). The Employer will make available a list of current union vacancies within their worksite, a list of unfilled vacancies within the respective Employer, a current union seniority list for the worksite (see Article 13.06) as well as a seniority list for the respective Employer, and information regarding any other options that may be available at the time.

Displaced employees will notify the Employer in writing, no later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of the meeting in 19.01(B) above, of the position they have chosen under Article 19.01(B)(1) or Article 19.01(B)(2)(d).

At the end of the seven (7) day period noted above, or earlier if it is agreed that no comparable worksite bump is available per Article 19.01(B)(2)(d) prior to that time, the displaced employee will have a further seven (7) calendar days to notify the Employer in writing of the position they have chosen under Article 19.01(B)(2)(e).

Employees on a leave of absence for any reason may be served displacement notice and can elect to make their choice while on leave, or when they return to work. If they choose to make their choice when they return to work, their choice will be based on the vacancies and seniority lists current at that time.

Regular employees identified by the Employer as displaced due to a reduction in the work force shall have access to the following provisions:

**(1) Vacancies**

- (a) In anticipation of the utilization of vacancies for displaced staff, the Employer may make temporary assignments to fill regular vacancies for two (2) months prior to the issuance of displacement notices.
- (b) Displaced employees shall have first consideration in the selection of vacant or new positions whether or not such vacancies have been posted, or unfilled vacancies that have been previously posted and gone unfilled. The selection of the vacant positions shall be in accordance with seniority, provided the employee has the capabilities and qualifications to perform the duties of the vacant position.
- (c) In the event that the Employer deems that the displaced employee is not qualified for the chosen vacant position, the Employer shall provide the usual unit orientation, education and training to the nurse provided that such usual unit orientation, education and training does not exceed six (6) weeks or as mu-

tually agreed. After the nurse has successfully completed the usual unit orientation, education and training, the nurse will be deemed qualified for the position by the Employer. This option is only available to displaced employees once per layoff. If a displaced employee is unsuccessful following the above, the employee will be required to fill a comparable vacancy.

- (d) Throughout the term of the employee's education and training, and until the employee has commenced employment in their new position, the Employer shall continue to pay the employee at the same wage rate as that of their previous position and continue to provide benefits.

For vacancies and unfilled vacancies, first consideration is given to displaced employees at the originating worksite, second consideration is given to displaced employees from other worksites within the Employer, and third consideration is given to all other employees.

## (2) **Bumping**

- (a) Displaced employees who have chosen not to select an available vacancy, or do not have access to a vacancy, can elect to bump to a position in line with seniority (subject to 2(c) below).
- (b) In the event that the Employer deems that the displaced employee is not qualified for the chosen bump, the Employer shall provide the usual unit orientation, education and training to the nurse provided that such usual unit orientation, education and training does not exceed six (6) weeks or as mutually agreed. After the nurse has successfully completed the usual unit orientation, education and training, the nurse will be deemed qualified for the position by the Employer. Nurses who elect to bump into a specialty position must possess the required education.

Throughout the term of the nurse's education and training and until the nurse has commenced employment in their new position, the Employer

shall continue to pay the nurse at the same wage rate as that of their previous position and continue to provide benefits.

This option is only available to displaced employees once per layoff. If a displaced employee is unsuccessful following the above options, the employee will be required to bump into a comparable position.

- (c) Displaced employees will choose a position to bump into by designating:
  - (i) the FTE;
  - (ii) the unit/department/program (program for community nurses only); and
  - (iii) the shift pattern. Shift patterns are identified as days/evenings; days/nights; evenings/nights; days; nights; or evenings.

They will then bump to the position held by the junior employee with the designated FTE, shift pattern and unit/department/ program (program for community nurses only). Employees who are bumped will be served displacement notice and treated in accordance with the provisions of Article 19.01(B).

- (d) Worksite Bumping

Displaced employees will review their bumping options in their own worksite first and follow the bumping procedures as listed in (a)-(c) above.

- (e) Bumping outside of the worksite where applicable
  - (i) Should a displaced employee not be able to bump into a position that is comparable, and they do not volunteer to bump into a non-comparable position, they will be deemed to have exhausted their bumping options at the worksite and may exercise their bumping rights, as above, at other Employer worksites.



- (ii) A comparable position will be defined as a position that is:
  - (a) within a field of practice sharing a common clinical focus (e.g.: medical, surgical, extended care, intensive care, psychiatric care, etc.) with the employee's pre-displacement field of practice;
  - (b) +/- 0.2 FTE of the employee's pre-displacement FTE; and
  - (c) does not require the employee to change their status; and
  - (d) within their pre-displacement wage rate.

**(3) Lay-off**

If a displaced employee finds there is no satisfactory position available to them, they may elect lay-off.

**(4) Access to Casual Work**

A laid-off employee may have access to casual work without affecting their status as a laid-off regular employee. Such an employee shall only be entitled to such benefits as are available to casual employees except as outlined in Article 19.03.

**(5) Severance Allowance**

A laid-off employee shall be entitled to severance allowance pursuant to Article 55.

**(C) Displacement Processes**

- (i) The Employer may elect to process all displacements, selection of vacancies and bumps as they occur, or delay the movement of individuals into positions selected until all subsequent postings/bumping placements are known.
- (ii) If an employee, who has been previously accommodated as a result of a medically documented disability, is displaced or bumped by another employee, Union representatives and representatives of the Employer will meet to find a placement which maintains a reasonable level of

accommodation for the disabled employee, or identify alternative options for the senior employee.

- (iii) An employee selecting or bumping into a position under Article 19.01(B)(1) or 19.01(B)(2) shall be considered a qualifying employee pursuant to Article 18.03 and shall be entitled to orientation as specified in Article 18.04. If the employee is found to be unsatisfactory in the qualifying period, they shall be entitled to one additional access to the provisions of Article 19.01(B). If found to be unsatisfactory a second time, they shall be laid off.
- (iv) Any change in position under Article 19.01(B)(2) shall not result in a promotion or demotion unless agreed upon between the Union and the Employer.
- (v) A displaced employee filling a lower-rated position under 19.01(B)(1) or (2) shall continue to be paid at their current rate of pay until the rate of pay in the new position equals or exceeds it with the exception of displaced employees choosing to bump or fill a lower-rated position under 19.01(B)(1) or (2) rather than accepting a vacancy or unfilled vacancy within their own classification at their worksite or within their geographical area, which they are qualified and capable to perform. Such employees shall assume the rate of pay of the lower-rated position.
- (vi) "Geographical Area" means a worksite located within fifty (50) kilometers of the employee's originating worksite.

## **19.02 Advance Notice**

Regular employees who are laid-off by the Employer and who have been regularly employed by the Employer for the periods specified below, shall receive notice or pay in lieu as follows:

### **(A) Regular Full-Time Employees**

- (1) Less than five (5) years' service – twenty-eight (28) calendar days' notice  
or  
regular pay for twenty (20) work days;

- (2) minimum of five (5) years' but less than ten (10) years' service – forty (40) calendar days' notice  
or  
regular pay for thirty (30) work days;
- (3) more than ten (10) years' service – sixty (60) calendar days' notice  
or  
regular pay for forty (40) work days.

**(B) Regular Part-Time Employees**

Regular part-time employees require the same notice, however, pay in lieu of notice shall be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{hours paid per month }^*(\text{excluding overtime}) \times \text{**}(\text{work days in lieu of notice})}{(162.5 \text{ hours})}$$

\* Includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) work days. (Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

\*\* Entitlement as in (A)(1), (2) or (3).

**(C) Application**

- (1) service with a previous Employer shall not be included as service for the purpose of this Article;
- (2) the period of notice must be for the time scheduled to be worked and must not include accrued vacation.

**19.03 Benefits Continued**

- (A) Employees with one (1) or more years of service who are laid-off shall accrue benefits for twenty (20) work days and shall have their benefits maintained for the balance of a one (1) year period of time. (Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)
- (B) Employees with less than one (1) year of service but more than three (3) months of service who are laid-off shall not accrue benefits for twenty (20) work days but shall have their benefits maintained for one (1) year period of time.

- (C) Probationary employees who are laid-off shall not accrue benefits for twenty (20) work days but shall have their benefits maintained for three (3) months.
- (D) For the first twenty (20) work days of lay-off as expressed in (A) above, the Employer shall continue to pay premiums under the Medical Plan, Extended Health Care Plan, Dental Plan, Long-Term Disability Plan, and Group Life Insurance Plan. For the balance of a one (1) year period, or the time periods expressed in (B) and (C) above, whichever is applicable, employees who remain laid-off may continue to be insured under the above named plans upon payment of the appropriate premium to their Employer at such times as may be required pursuant to the said plan(s).

#### **19.04 Recall**

- (A) Should regular vacancies occur following lay-off, those employees on lay-off shall be recalled to these positions in order of seniority providing they have the capabilities and qualifications to perform the duties of the vacant position.

Laid-off employees may decline recall to one regular position within the Geographical Area without affecting their lay-off status. Laid off employees will be offered but are not required to accept regular positions outside the Geographical Area.

- (B) The Employer shall give seven (7) calendar days' notice of recall for work of an ongoing nature to the employee and such notice shall be by registered mail. The employee shall keep the Employer advised at all times of their current address.

Laid-off employees failing to report for work of a regular nature within seven (7) calendar days of the receipt of the written notice shall be considered to have abandoned their right to re-employment. Employees required to give notice to another Employer shall be deemed to be in compliance with this seven (7) calendar day provision.

- (C) Any recall shall not result in a promotion unless agreed upon between the Union and the Employer.
- (D) If no employee on lay-off possesses the required capabilities and qualifications, the vacant position will be posted in accordance with Article 17.01. No new employee nor casual em-

employee shall be hired to fill regular positions until those laid-off have been given first option of recall.

- (E) An employee recalled to a position shall be considered a qualifying employee pursuant to Article 18.03 and shall be entitled to orientation as specified in Article 18.04. If the employee is found to be unsatisfactory in the qualifying period, they shall be returned to the recall list. Total time on the recall list shall not exceed one year.

### **19.05 Recall Period**

Post probationary employees who are laid-off beyond a one-year period of time shall be deemed to be terminated. Probationary employees who are laid-off beyond a three (3) month period of time shall be deemed to be terminated.

### **19.06 Leaves of Absence**

Employees on leave of absence are not subject to lay-off until completion of such leave.

## **ARTICLE 20 – TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AUTOMATION**

### **20.01 Technological Policy**

The Employer agrees to take all reasonable steps so that no employee shall lose employment because of technological change (automation or introduction of a new method of operation) which adversely affects the rights of employees or their wages or working conditions.

### **20.02 Technological Displacement**

#### **(A) Employee Notified**

Employees affected by technological change shall be notified in writing at least twenty-eight (28) calendar days in advance of the implementation of such technological change.

#### **(B) Union Notified**

- (1) The Employer shall notify the Union twenty-eight (28) calendar days before the introduction of any technological change which adversely affects the rights of employees or their wages or working conditions.

- (2) Any dispute arising in relation to adjustment to technological change shall be discussed between the Employer and the Union. If subsequent to this discussion a dispute still exists, then either party may refer the matter to arbitration for final and binding conclusion as prescribed in Article 10 – Arbitration.

### **20.03 Wages on Reassignment**

An employee reassigned to a lower-rated position because of the introduction of technological change, automation or new methods of operations shall continue to be paid at their current wage rate until the wage rate in the new position equals or exceeds it.

### **20.04 Lay-Off Due to Technological Change**

When it is necessary to reduce staff due to technological change, the lay-off shall be done in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 – Lay-Off and Recall.

## **ARTICLE 21 – CREATION OF NEW POSITION**

### **21.01 Employer Notice**

If the Employer creates a new position, it shall give written notice to the Union classification department of the job classification level it has assigned to that position, pursuant to Article 61 and shall provide a copy of the new job description to the Union, pursuant to Article 23.

### **21.02 Implementation**

- (A) If the Union objects to the Employer's classification assignment, it must do so via the Job Classification Review Procedure.
- (B) Job Classification Review Procedure
  - (i) Where the Union has initiated the Job Classification Review Procedure, representatives of the Union and HEABC shall within twenty-eight (28) days consider which profile best describes the core function of the job in question and how the job fits into the industry standard for like jobs. At the request of either party, the parties will complete and utilize the job questionnaire(s) in this consideration. The parties shall attempt to resolve the matter through negotiations.

- (ii) Failing resolution of the matter by negotiations, the matter may be referred by either party to the BCHOA as a classification arbitration. The Arbitrator shall consider the same criteria (see Article 21.02(B)(i)) as the parties in determining the appropriate classification/wage level for the job in question.
- (iii) Classification arbitrations will be governed by the following processes: the parties will be limited to four (4) hours' presentation each, the parties will utilize staff representatives of the Union and HEABC to present cases, and the award will be issued within thirty (30) days of the hearing. The arbitrator's decision shall be limited to determining the appropriate classification/wage level of the job.

## **ARTICLE 22 – CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION**

### **22.01 Employer Notice**

If the Employer makes a significant change in the job content of a position, it shall give written notice to the Union classification department of the job classification/wage level it has assigned to that position, pursuant to Article 61 and shall provide a copy of the new job description to the Union pursuant to Article 23.

### **22.02 Implementation**

- (A) If the Union objects to the Employer's classification assignment, it must do so via the Job Classification Review Procedure.
- (B) **Job Classification Review Procedure**
  - (i) Upon initiation of the Job Classification Review Procedure, representatives of the Union and HEABC shall within twenty-eight (28) days consider which profile best describes the core function of the job in question, and how the job fits into the industry standard for like jobs. At the request of either party, the parties will complete and utilize the job questionnaire(s) in this consideration. The parties shall attempt to resolve the matter through negotiations.
  - (ii) Failing resolution of the matter by negotiations, the matter may be referred by either party to the BCHOA as

a classification arbitration. The Arbitrator shall consider the same criteria (see Article 21.02(B)(i)) as the parties in determining the appropriate classification/wage level for the job in question.

- (iii) Classification arbitrations will be governed by the following processes: the parties will be limited to four (4) hours' presentation each, the parties will utilize staff representatives of the Union and HEABC to present cases, and the award will be issued within thirty (30) days of the hearing. The arbitrator's decision shall be limited to determining the appropriate classification/ wage level of the job.

### **22.03 Employee Grievance**

If an employee considers there has been a significant change to the job content of the position held, the employee may initiate a grievance by using Step 1 of the Grievance Procedure. If the issue is not resolved at this step, the Job Classification Review Procedure of Article 22.02(B) above shall be utilized.

## **ARTICLE 23 – JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

During the life of this Collective Agreement, the Employer shall prepare job descriptions for all classifications covered by the Certificate of Bargaining Authority. Job descriptions should contain the job title, worksite, name of the department, title of the immediate supervisor, classification and wage level of the job, a summary statement of the job, a list of the duties, qualifications and the date prepared. Such job descriptions shall be presented in writing to the Union. Employees shall have access to a copy of the current job descriptions.

## **ARTICLE 24 – JOB CLASSIFICATION AND PAY EQUITY PROCESS**

The parties agree to the principles of pay equity.

## **ARTICLE 25 – WORK SCHEDULES**

### **25.01 Master Work Schedule**

When a new master work schedule is being developed, the Employer shall, wherever possible, develop an equitable master work schedule of off-duty and on-duty days and shifts. Each regular em-



ployee shall be assigned to a place on the master work schedule. The Employer shall make every effort not to change the place of an employee on a master work schedule.

### **25.02 Determination of Work Schedules**

Work schedules, whenever possible, shall be determined by mutual agreement between the Employer and employees at the local level.

Employees who would like an opportunity to create a master work schedule will be provided with all the necessary information to allow them to create a rotation. Upon receiving the information, the employees shall receive twenty-eight (28) days in which to create a proposed rotation. Master work schedules must satisfy operational requirements, and be compliant with this Agreement.

### **25.03 Internal Schedule Change**

Where a line on a unit, department or program becomes vacant (the "original vacancy"), the original vacancy will be offered to all other regular employees on that unit, department or program in order of seniority.

The Employer will offer regular vacancies to regular employees within a particular unit, department or program on the basis of seniority and within their existing job status (F/T to F/T and P/T to P/T within 0.08 of their FTE) without a requirement to post the vacancy or conduct an interview. At no time in this process can line changes result in a change in classification, status or result in a difference of more than 0.08 FTE from the original vacancy FTE. The remaining vacancy will be posted in accordance with Article 17.01(B).

The above schedule change must be completed by the next posting cycle as described in 17.01(B) but allow for a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours.

### **25.04 Self-Scheduling**

The parties recognize that self-scheduling is an option to consider that provides flexibility for employees' work schedules.

Self-scheduling is a method of scheduling shifts on the same master schedule for regular baseline employees of the same classification and within their required FTE. Self-scheduling must be in ac-

cordance with this Agreement and the operational requirements defined by the Employer for the unit/worksites.

Where a majority of employees on a unit, program or department agree to consider self-scheduling the employees will follow the Employers' self-scheduling guidelines.

The Employer will create standard guidelines for the implementation of self-scheduling for employees and managers. These guidelines must include the following core elements:

- (A) Written staff commitment to the process;
- (B) Vacation planning process;
- (C) Opt in and out process;
- (D) Shift selection process; and
- (E) Clear timelines to complete the final work schedule.

The Employer will accommodate a self-scheduling request when:

- 1. it meets operational requirements; and
- 2. the Employer will not incur additional costs.

It is the responsibility of the individual employees to:

- 1. select their shifts in a manner consistent with organization policies & guidelines and this Agreement; and
- 2. collaborate with their colleagues to make changes or accommodations, balancing the need to provide appropriate shift coverage with individual choice.

Employees who do not participate in self-scheduling will continue to work in accordance with the master work schedule.

### **25.05 Posting of Work Schedules**

Work schedules shall be written in ink and posted and maintained in such a way as to provide every employee an opportunity to know their shift schedule for an advanced period of six (6) weeks.

### **25.06 Requirements of Work Schedules**

- (A) Work schedules may take the form of either two-shift, or single shift rotations except as requested by the employee in

writing and agreed to by the Employer. This provision does not apply to shifts accepted by regular part-time employees in addition to their regularly scheduled work.

- (B) The employee may request in writing to work fixed weekend, evening or night shift.
- (C) A regular employee shall not be scheduled to work more than six (6) consecutive days, unless requested by the employee and agreed to by the Employer.
- (D) All off-duty days shall be consecutive unless requested by the employee and agreed to by the Employer.
- (E)
  - (i) Each regular employee shall be scheduled off-duty an average of not less than one (1) weekend in every three (3) weekends in each nine (9) week period. For the purposes of this Article a weekend means the period of time between 2300 hours Friday and 0700 hours Monday. By mutual agreement between the Employer and the Union, this provision may be waived.
  - (ii) Effective April 1, 2023, provision (E) (i) will not apply where:
    - the majority of regular employees request a change, in writing, that limits the block to no more than five (5) consecutive shifts;
    - the existing master work schedule contains six (6) consecutive shifts in a block; and
    - existing sets of six (6) consecutive shifts cannot be eliminated or reduced with existing scheduling provisions. (Reference Appendix I.1 Memorandum of Agreement re: Consecutive Shifts)

The distribution of weekends will be done in a fair and equitable manner.

- (F) Except by agreement between the Employer and the employee concerned each regular employee shall receive two (2) clear off-duty shifts when changing shifts and at least forty-eight (48) hours off-duty after completing the final night shift in a set.

## **25.07 Requirements of Work Schedules (Employees on Flexible Work Schedules)**

This Article applies to all nurses who are employed in a program which provides other than 24-hour per day services.

- (A) The parties recognize the particular and unique needs of clients dealing with community based health care services and that the provision of such services cannot always be predicted accurately in advance. In the interest of client care, it is obligatory upon the Employer and its employees to strive for the efficient operation and maintenance of the services. In this regard, the parties agree that work schedules for employees engaged in such activities will be scheduled on a flexible basis.
- (B) The scheduled hours of work for nurses within this program shall be flexible to a maximum of 150 hours within a four (4) week period. The Employer will identify each four (4) week period in advance. The establishment of work schedules shall be by mutual agreement between the Employer and the employees at the local level.
- (C) It is intended that the base schedule to which flexibility is to be applied shall be a seven and one half (7.5) hour work day.
- (D) In planning the proposed schedule, the seven and one half (7.5) hour work day may be altered by mutual agreement if it is in the interest of client care and/or efficiency or to complete work due to exceptional circumstances.

The planning may also include the identification of possible day(s) or partial day(s) off. These day(s) are scheduled in anticipation of the employee working sufficient flexible time in excess of the base daily full-shift hours. It is understood that such day(s) off or partial day(s) will in fact be earned. It is also understood that employees are entitled to benefits in accordance with the base daily full-shift work day, as applicable while on paid or unpaid leaves of absence.

- (E) Once posted the proposed daily schedule of hours can also be altered by mutual agreement if it is in the interest of client care and/or efficiency or to complete work due to exceptional circumstances.

- (F) The employee shall keep an accurate record of actual hours worked which will be submitted to their supervisor.
- (G) The Employer shall make every effort to notify an employee of any anticipated changes to the length of the work day.
- (H) In order to provide the flexibility necessary to enable the completion of the required hours of work in each four (4) week period, it is agreed that no premium or penalty contemplated in Article 28 (Shift Premium and Weekend Premium) or 27 (Overtime) of this Agreement shall apply where it results from an employee exercising their right to flexible work arrangements pursuant to this Article. (See Appendix "N")
- (I) Increases or decreases in caseload shall be a determining factor in the scheduling of hours of work within the four (4) week averaging period.

The parties agree that notwithstanding the above paragraph, the proposed daily schedule of hours of a regular part-time or casual employee who is working a flexible work schedule may be cancelled.

- (J) To ensure adequate services for the public and still maximize the number of employees with weekends scheduled off and evenings scheduled off, it may be necessary to schedule, by mutual agreement at the local level, six (6) consecutive days.
- (K) Flexible work schedules may be cancelled by either the employee or the Employer. Upon giving written notice of cancellation to the other party, new schedules will be implemented within ninety (90) days of the date of such notice. The new work schedules will comply with Article 25.

## **25.08 Insufficient Notice**

- (A) Should the Employer require a change to an employee's shift schedule and not give at least ten (10) calendar days' notice in advance to the affected employee of the change in the schedule, then the employee so affected shall be paid at the applicable overtime rate for all time worked on the first day of the shift posting change. (Reference Article 39.04(D) Changes in Schedule with Insufficient Notice.)
- (B) Insufficient notice shall not apply to employees working for home support agencies, except for Field and RN Supervisors.

## **25.09 Voluntary Shift Exchange**

To support flexibility, employees may exchange single shifts, participate in a shift exchange pool, or both as follows:

### **(A) Single Shift Exchanges**

1. The purpose of a shift exchange is for two (2) employees to exchange a scheduled work shift.
2. A shift exchange will be granted if:
  - a. employees are qualified and oriented to the unit/department/program,
  - b. employees are within the same classification,
  - c. employees provide at least seven (7) calendar days but no more than ninety (90) calendar days advance notice from the first date of the shift exchange, and
  - d. shifts are exchanged within the same ninety (90) calendar day period.
3. A shift exchange that is outside the parameters in #2 will require Employer approval.
4. The Employer's regular staffing replacement process will apply if an exchanged shift becomes vacant.
5. The exchanged shift becomes part of an employee's work schedule. However, the scheduling provisions pertaining to master work schedules and overtime relating to the shift exchange do not apply.
6. Where employees are exchanging unequal hours, accrual bank earnings, FTE, and pension contributions may be affected.
7. The Employer will not incur any additional costs as a result of the shift exchange except for the nominal costs associated with processing the exchange.

### **(B) Shift Exchange Pool**

The parties recognize that a shift exchange pool is an option to provide flexibility for regular employees. Shift exchanges are between

a pool of employees (between two (2) and six (6) employees). It is expected that employees will continue to work their FTE.

1. Effective one hundred twenty (120) days post ratification, shift exchanges will be granted if regular employees:
  - a. are on the same master work schedule,
  - b. are within the same classification, and
  - c. cover all shifts in the master work schedule;
2. All exchanged shifts fall within the defined quarterly periods: January 1 – March 31; April 1 – June 30; July 1 – September 30; October 1 – December 31.
3. Employees in the shift exchange pool must provide the Employer with a complete list of exchanged shifts at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of each quarterly period.
4. Employees will revert to the master work schedule at the end of each quarter unless another list of exchanged shifts is received.
5. The Employer's regular staffing replacement process will apply if an exchanged shift becomes vacant.
6. The exchanged shift becomes part of an employee's work schedule. However, the scheduling provisions pertaining to master work schedules and overtime relating to the shift exchange do not apply.
7. Where employees are exchanging unequal hours, accrual bank earnings, FTE, and pension contributions may be affected.
8. The Employer will not incur any additional costs as a result of the shift exchanges except for the nominal costs associated with processing these exchanges.

## **25.10 Leave of Absence Refused**

Notwithstanding any provision contained elsewhere in this Agreement, the Employer may refuse a leave of absence if less than eight (8) days' notice has been given to the Employer and in the circumstances the Employer reasonably believes that by reason of the grant of leave of absence a shift change shall be required resulting in overtime payments.

(Article 33 – Leave – Compassionate, Article 34 – Leave – Court Appearance, and Article 42 – Leave – Sick, do not apply.)

### **25.11 Extended Work Day Memorandum**

Variations to this article to provide for extended work days are contained in the Extended Work Day Memorandum attached to and forming part of this agreement.

### **25.12 Three Different Shifts Worked**

(Where operations are on a 24-hour continuous basis)

- (A) Regular full-time employees shall not be required to work three (3) different shifts in any seven (7) consecutive day period posted in their work schedules, unless operational circumstances require such arrangement or unless the arrangement is by request of the employee. Employees scheduled to work three (3) different shifts for other than emergent circumstances shall be paid time and a half (1.5) for each day worked in the third shift change of the three (3) different shifts noted above, unless this arrangement is requested by the employee.
- (B) On implementation of revised work schedules as outlined in 25.06(A) regular employees shall not be required to work three (3) different shifts unless emergent circumstances require such arrangement. Employees who work three (3) different shifts as a result of emergent circumstances shall be paid the applicable overtime rate for each day worked in the third shift change of the three (3) different shifts noted above.

## **ARTICLE 26 – HOURS OF WORK, MEAL PERIODS, REST PERIODS**

### **26.01 Hours of Work**

Effective April 1, 2013, there shall be an average of 37.5 work hours per week, exclusive of meal periods, or a mutually agreed equivalent.

The normal weekly full shift hours shall be an average of 37.5 hours per week. The normal daily full shift hours shall be 7.5 hours except for existing positions whose normal daily full shift hours are 7.2 hours. Notwithstanding the above, where the Employer intends to in-



roduce a normal daily full shift work schedule of less than 7.5 hours, the new work schedule, whenever possible, shall be determined by mutual agreement between the Employer and employees at the local level (Reference Article 25.02).

The base day for benefit calculation purposes is 7.5 hours.

### **26.02 Consecutive Hours of Work**

The daily hours of work for each employee shall be consecutive with the following exceptions:

- (1) Client specific nurses working from home support agencies working more than one (1) scheduled shift per day shall have the right to refuse split shifts except those confined to a twelve (12) consecutive hour period.
- (2) Employees subject to a flexible work schedule arrangement may work split shifts, where the employee requests a split shift and the Employer agrees.

### **26.03 Meal Periods**

- (A) A meal period of at least thirty (30) continuous minutes, away from the work place, shall be provided by the Employer. Such a meal period shall be provided at intervals that results in no employee working longer than five (5) consecutive hours without an eating period. For clarity, 26.03(A) also applies to employees working overtime.
- (B) When an employee is designated either expressly or implicitly to be available for work during a meal period and:
  - (1) the employee is scheduled to work a 7.5 hour shift and receives thirty (30) minutes for a meal period exclusive of the 7.5 hour shift, then the employee shall receive 8.0 hours pay at regular rates;
  - (2) the employee is scheduled to work a 7.5 hour shift and does not receive thirty (30) minutes for a meal period exclusive of the 7.5 hour shift, then the employee shall receive 7.5 hours pay at regular straight time rates plus thirty (30) minutes pay at time and one-half (1.5) the regular rate;

- (3) in the event an employee in (1) above is recalled to duty during their meal period the provisions of (2) apply.
- (C) Should an employee who has not been designated to be available for work during their meal period be recalled to duty during their meal period, the additional time off equal to the unused portion of the meal break shall be provided later in the shift. Should the additional continuous time off not be granted, then overtime rates of pay of time and one-half (1.5) the regular rate shall prevail for the total of the meal period.
- (D) The maximum overtime rates of pay for meal periods shall be time and one-half (1.5) irrespective of the rates expressed in Article 27 Overtime.

#### **26.04 Rest Periods**

Employees working a full shift will receive one rest period of fifteen (15) minutes in each half of the shift. Employees working less than a full shift, but a minimum of four (4) hours will receive one fifteen (15) minute rest period.

#### **26.05 On-Call Time**

Hours of work shall not include on-call time.

#### **26.06 Standard/Daylight Savings Time Change**

Employees shall be paid for actual hours worked when scheduled to work the nights of the standard/daylight savings time changes. It is understood that this pay will be at straight time.

#### **26.07 Paid End of Shift Work**

Where an employee is required to perform work which extends beyond the end of their regularly scheduled shift by less than fifteen (15) minutes, they will be paid at their straight-time rate of pay for all time worked.

Where the time worked is fifteen (15) minutes or greater, the employee will be paid at the applicable overtime rate in accordance with Article 27 – Overtime.

## **ARTICLE 27 – OVERTIME**

### **27.01 Definition**

- (A) Except as in (B) below, overtime means authorized services performed by an employee in excess of the normal daily full shift hours or weekly full shift hours as set out in Article 26.01 Hours of Work.
- (B) For employees working a flexible schedule pursuant to Article 25.06 – Requirements of Work Schedules, overtime means authorized work performed in excess of 150 hours in a designated four (4) week period, which shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half (1.5) of the employee's regular rate of pay. It is understood that every reasonable effort will be made to schedule earned time off within the proposed schedule. Notwithstanding the paragraph above, in the event that an employee is unable to do so, it will be carried over to the next four (4) week period where it shall be scheduled off at a mutually agreeable time.

### **27.02 Authorization**

The Employer shall advise the employees of the names or the positions authorized to approve overtime, and shall advise each employee, upon request, of all overtime due to the employee.

### **27.03 Employee's Right to Decline Overtime**

#### **(A) General Rights**

The Employer may request an employee to work a reasonable amount of overtime. Should the employee believe that the Employer is requesting the employee to work more than a reasonable amount of overtime, then the employee may decline to work the additional overtime, except in emergency conditions, without being subject to disciplinary action.

#### **(B) Double Shift and Work on a Scheduled Day Off**

A regular full-time employee may be requested by the Employer to work on only one (1) of their scheduled days off per week, or to work a double shift. The decision to work the scheduled day off or the double shift remains with the employee.

## **27.04 Application**

- (A) A record shall be kept of authorized overtime worked by each employee which, at the option of the employee, shall be taken as time off or pay. Should the option be time off, such time off for overtime shall be accumulated and taken at a time mutually agreed to by the employee and the Employer.
- (B) The maximum amount in an employee's overtime bank shall be one hundred and fifty (150) straight-time hours.

## **27.05 Overtime Pay Calculation**

Overtime shall not be claimed or received for less than fifteen (15) minutes. If overtime amounts to fifteen (15) minutes, or more, it shall be paid for the total period.

- (A) Overtime at the rate of time and one-half (1.5) shall be paid on the following basis:
  - (1) for the first two (2) hours in excess of the normal daily full shift hours as defined by Article 26.01 Hours of Work;
  - (2) for the first normal daily full shift hours in excess of the normal weekly full shift hours as defined by Article 26.01 Hours of Work.
- (B) Overtime at the rate of double (2 times) shall be paid on the following basis:
  - (1) for all hours in excess of those worked in (A)(1) above;
  - (2) for all hours in excess of those worked in (A)(2) above;
  - (3) for all hours worked on a regular full-time employee's scheduled day off, and for regular part-time employees for all hours worked on additional shift(s) to their regular schedule resulting in the part-time employee working:
    - a) (i) in excess of four (4) consecutive extended shifts where the shift length is greater than eight (8) hours.
    - (ii) in excess of six (6) consecutive shifts where the shift length is between seven and one-half (7.5) and eight (8) hours.

- (iii) in excess of five (5) consecutive shifts where three (3) or more of the five (5) are greater than eight (8) hours in length.
  - (iv) in excess of six (6) consecutive shifts where four (4) or more of the six (6) are between seven and one-half (7.5) and eight (8) hours in length.
- b) more than 225 straight time hours over the course of three (3) consecutive bi-weekly pay periods.

Employees will not be entitled to overtime under more than one of (a) or (b), where overtime premiums have already been paid under either of these provisions.

- (C) Overtime at the rate of one and one-half (1.5) times the appropriate holiday rate shall be paid on the following basis:
- (1) for all overtime hours worked on a calendar paid holiday;
  - (2) for all overtime hours worked on a day which had originally been scheduled as a paid holiday but was changed by the Employer with less than fourteen (14) calendar days' notice.

### **27.06 Overtime Offered and Accepted**

An Employer may only cancel a shift that is both offered and accepted within twenty-four (24) hours of the start of the shift.

### **27.07 Overtime By Seniority**

Where a Health Authority/PHC has implemented automated call-in technology, overtime that is pre-booked greater than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the shift will be offered by seniority order.

## **ARTICLE 28 – PREMIUMS**

(This Provision is not applicable to certain Employers. See Article 25.07(H)).

### **28.01 Evening and Night Shift Premium**

An employee shall be paid a shift premium for every evening and night shift when one-half or more than one-half of the hours worked fall within the defined evening or night shift. In such cases the shift premium shall be paid for the total number of hours worked.

The shift premium shall apply to overtime hours worked during the evening or night shift.

- (A) Effective April 1, 2022, the evening shift premium shall be \$1.05 per hour. Effective April 1, 2023, the evening shift premium shall be \$1.40 per hour.
- (B) Effective April 1, 2022, the night shift premium shall be \$4.25 per hour. Effective April 1, 2023, the night shift premium shall be \$5.00 per hour.

This Provision is not applicable to certain Employers: see Article 25.07(H).

### **28.02 Weekend Shift Premium**

Effective April 1, 2022, an employee shall be paid a weekend premium of \$2.90 per hour for each hour worked between 2300 hours Friday and 2300 hours Sunday. Effective April 1, 2023, the weekend premium will be increased to \$3.50.

This Provision is not applicable to certain Employers: see Article 25.07(H).

### **28.03 Super Shift Premium**

Effective April 1, 2022, an employee shall be paid a super shift premium of \$1.40 per hour for each hour worked between 2330 Friday and 0730 Saturday, and between 2330 Saturday and 0730 Sunday. Effective April 1, 2023, the super shift premium will be increased to \$1.85. This premium shall be in addition to night and weekend premiums.

Notwithstanding the above, where an Employer's standard night shift is 2300 to 0700, the super shift premium will be paid for each hour worked between 2300 Friday and 0700 Saturday, and between 2300 Saturday and 0700 Sunday.

This Provision is not applicable to certain Employers: see Article 25.07(H).

### **28.04 Short Notice Premium**

Employees who are offered and accept a straight-time shift within twenty-four (24) hours of the start of the shift shall be paid a shift premium of \$2.00 per hour for each hour worked

## **28.05 Regular Premium**

Effective April 1, 2023, all regular employees will be paid a premium of \$2.15 per hour for each hour worked excluding overtime.

## **28.06 OR/PAR/ER/ICU/CCU Premium**

Effective April 1, 2023, regular employees who are employed in:

- (i) Operating Room and Post Anaesthetic Room (OR / PAR) with permanently assigned staff;
- (ii) Emergency Departments (ER) including emergency psychiatric services, with permanently assigned staff;
- (iii) Intensive Care/Critical Care Units (ICU/CCU) with permanently assigned staff;

will receive an additional premium of \$2.00 per hour for each hour worked.

## **ARTICLE 29 – ON-CALL, CALL-BACK AND CALL-IN**

### **29.01 Definitions**

- (A) On-call means the time period specified by the Employer during which an off-duty employee is required to be available for work.
- (B) Call-back means the period during which an employee is scheduled off-duty and is either:
  - (1) on-call and reports to duty at the Employer's request;
  - (2) on-call and takes a telephone call without attending the worksite, office or client's home; or
  - (3) is not on-call and returns to duty, at the Employer's request, after the completion of their shift.
- (C) Call-in means the period of time that an employee reports for duty, at the Employer's request, for unscheduled work.

### **29.02 Application**

During the time the employee is receiving call-back pay, the on-call premium shall not apply.

### **29.03 On-Call**

#### **(A) Premium**

Effective April 1, 2023, an employee on-call shall be paid a premium of \$7.00 per hour for the first seventy-two (72) hours on-call in a calendar month. Thereafter, the employee shall receive \$7.50 per hour.

#### **(B) On-Call Limited**

Every effort shall be made to avoid placing an employee on-call on the evening prior to or during off-duty days.

#### **(C) Electronic Devices**

Should the Employer require an employee to have an electronic device available during their on-call period, then all such related expenses for such devices shall be the sole responsibility of the Employer.

### **29.04 Call-Back**

#### **(A) Compensation**

- (i) Return to provide care: Employees called back to work after the completion of their shift or called back to work on a scheduled day off while being paid the on-call premium, shall be paid a minimum of two (2) hours pay at the appropriate overtime rates provided in Article 27.05 for each separate call-back.
- (ii) Telephone call back: A nurse who responds to a call from the worksite about a patient-related concern or from a client by telephone without attending at the office or at the home of the client will be compensated at one and one half (1.5x) times the normal rate of pay for thirty (30) minutes for each call from a worksite or client regardless of the duration, or for the duration of the call if the call exceeds thirty (30) minutes.

#### **(B) Call-Back on a Paid Holiday**

An employee receiving the on-call premium specified in Article 29.03 and who is called back to work on any of the paid holidays listed in Article 39 shall be paid the appropriate overtime rate for all hours



worked, with a minimum of two (2) hours pay at the appropriate over-time rate.

- (C) For the purposes of this Article, a scheduled day off shall mean any day other than a paid holiday on which an employee is not scheduled to work.

#### **29.05 Application of Call-Back**

##### **(A) Functions of Employee on Call-Back**

Employees called back to a worksite, office or client's home shall be required to perform all functions which are related to the situation which gave rise to the call-back. The employee shall not be required to perform unrelated, non-emergency functions.

##### **(B) Employee Option: Time Off or Cash**

Hours worked under this Article shall be taken at the option of the employee as time off or pay. Should the option be time off, such time off shall be accumulated and taken at a time agreed to by the employee and the Employer.

#### **29.06 Call-Back Travel Allowance**

An employee called back to a worksite, office or client's home shall receive call-back travel allowance as follows:

- (A) mileage allowance at rates set by the Canada Revenue Agency;
- or
- (B) where public or private transportation facilities are not available, taxi fare from home to hospital and return.

In either (A) or (B) above, an employee shall be paid a minimum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each round trip.

#### **29.07 Call-In**

- (A) A regular part-time or casual employee reporting to a worksite, office or client's home at the call of the Employer for unscheduled work, except those on-call or on a call-back, shall be paid for all hours worked with a minimum of two (2) hours' pay at their regular rate if the employee does not commence

work, and a minimum of four (4) hours' pay at the regular rate if the employee commences work.

- (B) A regular full-time employee reporting to a worksite, office or client's home at the call of the Employer for unscheduled work, except those on-call or on a call-back, shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours' pay at the applicable rate if the employee does not commence work or if they work for less than two (2) hours. If the employee works for more than two (2) hours, they shall be paid for all hours worked at the applicable rate of pay.

### **29.08 Insufficient Off-Duty Hours**

The purpose of this provision is to ensure that employees receive adequate rest where the Employer is requiring them to be on-call or called back to a worksite, office or client's home.

- (A) If an employee works Employer-required overtime immediately following their regular shift or is called back to a worksite, office or client's home and does not receive a total of eight (8) consecutive hours off duty after completion of the call back and the start of their next regularly scheduled shift, then the employee will not be required to report for duty until the employee has received a total of eight (8) consecutive hours off duty. In such instances, no deduction will be made in the employee's daily pay and the employee's normal shift hours will not be extended to have the employee work a full shift. All hours worked will be at the applicable rate of pay.
- (B) The employee in the above situation will advise their Supervisor in advance of the fact that they will not be reporting for duty at their scheduled time.
- (C) This provision is waived if the employee is granted a request for a particular shift arrangement that does not give the employee eight (8) consecutive hours in total off duty as stated in subsection (A) above.

### **ARTICLE 30 – RESPONSIBILITY PAY**

Effective April 1, 2023, a Level 3 nurse designated in charge of a unit, department or worksite for two (2) hours or more shall be paid an allowance of \$2.50 per hour.

The employer may designate or assign 'in-charge' duties to a Level 1 nurse, as set out above, in the following circumstances:

- (a) in sites where no bargaining unit Level 3 nurse is on shift at the unit, department or worksite; or
- (b) where the only RN or RPN on the unit, department or worksite is an agency nurse.

For small Employers such as adult day care agencies, mental health and home support the following shall apply:

- Effective April 1, 2023, a special allowance of \$18.75 per shift shall be paid to nurses designated in charge of a worksite for a specified shift.

An employee cannot receive both premiums referenced above on any given shift.

## **ARTICLE 31 – NON-DISCRIMINATION**

### **31.01 Non-Discrimination**

- (A) The Employer and the Union subscribe to the principles of the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, which prohibits discrimination because of a person's Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age of that person, because that person has been convicted of a criminal or summary conviction offence that is unrelated to the employment or to the intended employment of that person, or other applicable protected grounds that may be added to the *Human Rights Code*.
- (B) The Employer and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination, interference, restriction or coercion exercised or practiced with respect to any employee for reason of membership or activity in the Union.
- (C) The Union and the Employer recognize the right of employees to work in an environment free from sexual harassment, and the Employer shall take such actions as are necessary with respect to any person engaging in sexual harassment at the work place.

### **31.02 Respectful Workplace**

- (A) The Employer and the Union recognize the right of employees to have a respectful workplace free from bullying and harassment. The Employer shall take all reasonable steps to minimize all forms of workplace bullying and harassment.
- (B) Employees who experience any form of bullying and harassment may file a complaint pursuant to the Employer's policy. The policy will include how to report complaints and the procedure for responding to and the investigation of complaints of bullying and harassment.
- (C) The Employer shall provide their Respectful Workplace policy to the local Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC).

### **31.03 Complaints Investigation**

- (A) An employee who complains of harassment may register a complaint with the Employer or through the Union (at the employee's option) to the Employer designate.
- (B) The Employer will conduct an intake with the complainant within fifteen (15) calendar days and, within a further forty-five (45) calendar days, investigate, and respond to the harassment allegations pursuant to its respectful workplace policy. The Employer will notify the complainant, the respondent, and the Union (if involved) upon conclusion of the investigation whether or not the allegations were substantiated.
- (C) Where the Employer's respectful workplace policy includes an appeal procedure, at the conclusion of the investigation, the complainant will be so advised.
- (D) Both the complainant and the respondent will be entitled to Union representation if they are members of the NBA.
- (E) Where the complainant involves *Human Rights Code* grounds, including allegations of sexual harassment, the complainant must advise the Employer and, may refer the complaint to either the Employer's respectful workplace policy or a Complaints Investigator. HEABC and the NBA will determine a list of Complaints Investigators by mutual agreement.

- (F) Prior to initiating an investigation, the Complaints Investigator will determine whether the allegations fall within the definition of discrimination in the *Human Rights Code* and notify the Employer and the Union.
- (G) Where the Complaints Investigator determines that the complaint does not fall within the definition of discrimination in the *Human Rights Code*, they will discontinue the investigation, unless the Union and the Employer jointly agree to proceed. The complainant will be advised accordingly.
- (H) When a complaint is determined to fall within the definition of discrimination in the *Human Rights Code* the Complaints Investigator will:
  - 1. investigate the complaint;
  - 2. determine the nature of the complaint; and
  - 3. make written recommendations to resolve the complaint.
- (I) The cost of the Complaints Investigator will be shared equally by the Union and the Employer.

### **ARTICLE 32 – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM**

The parties commit to establishing a culture of safety and violence reduction in every worksite.

In recognition of this, the parties agree to cooperate in the promotion of safe work habits and safe working conditions and to adhere to the provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act* and related regulations. The Employer will ensure that the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation is readily available at each worksite for reference by all workers and will ensure that workers are aware of the onsite location where the Regulation is available for viewing. The Employer will also provide employees with information on where copies of the Regulation are available for ordering from WorkSafeBC, providing the address, phone number, and website for WorkSafeBC.

The provisions of this Article are intended to be additional to, but may also be covered by, provisions of the Act and related regulations.

## 32.01 Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee

The Employer and the Union recognize the role of the joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee in promoting a safe and healthful workplace.

The improved effectiveness, streamlined and singular report mechanisms of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (“JOHSC”) will have benefit to overall workplace safety and well-being, including improved claims management.

The Employer shall establish a JOHSC at all worksites as determined by the *Workers Compensation Act*. The Employer will also consider requests from the Union to establish either a JOHSC where there are less than twenty (20) employees or assign the worksite to an existing JOHSC.

The Employer will consult with the Union Representative when making a proposal to WorkSafeBC for a variation to JOHSC requirements under the *Workers Compensation Act* and Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Each JOHSC shall govern itself in accordance with the provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act* and applicable Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and shall be comprised of equal representation from the Employer and the Union, with each party appointing its own JOHSC Members. JOHSC Members appointed by the Union shall be chosen by the Union membership or appointed by the Union.

NBA JOHSC Members (or alternates) will be provided time during work that is reasonably necessary to prepare for JOHSC meetings, and shall be released from their regular duties to attend JOHSC meetings and perform related duties and functions as set out in the *Workers Compensation Act*. The Employer will reassign the work that would otherwise have been performed by the NBA JOHSC Member. This may include replacement of the employee.

As outlined in the *Workers Compensation Act*, JOHSC Members shall be provided with adequate training and orientation regarding the duties and responsibilities of JOHSC Members to allow the Members to fulfil those duties competently. Such training and orientation shall take place within six (6) months of the Member joining the JOHSC.

Where the JOHSC is conducting an incident investigation involving an NBA member, the designated NBA JOHSC Member (or alternate)

shall be released from their regular duties to participate in the investigation. The Employer will reassign the work that would have otherwise been performed by the NBA JOHSC Member for the duration of the investigation. This may include replacement of the employee. Where an investigation is scheduled outside the NBA JOHSC Member's regular hours, the Member will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

Within sixty (60) days of ratification, the parties agree to jointly request that SWITCH BC develop a universal format for JOHSC minutes and pursue the development of OH&S curriculum to improve JOHSC effectiveness within twelve (12) months of ratification.

Once per month, the Employer will make available to the Union, in electronic format, the minutes of each JOHSC meeting, including but not limited to appendices, decisions, recommendations, reports, data and investigations reviewed.

The JOHSC may request from the Employer information necessary to complete its duties and functions of the JOHSC outlined in the *Workers Compensation Act*. This information may include but is not limited to, incident and injury reports, safety policies, procedures and practices, violence risk assessments, security incident reports and regulatory inspections and orders related to employee occupational health and safety. Such information will be provided in a timely manner and will not be unreasonably withheld.

Every six (6) months, the Employer shall provide to the Union, in electronic format, the following data:

- a list of all active Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees;
- the areas that each committee is responsible for (such as facility, units or programs);
- where and when each committee meets;
- the names, positions, and committee appointment dates for all NBA members;
- the date each member received education as per the OHS Regulation and additional education referred to in the Collective Agreement or provided by the employer relating to occupational health and safety.

## **32.02 Medical Examinations**

An employee may be required by the Employer, at the request of and at the expense of the Employer, to take a medical examination by a physician of the employee's choice. Employees may be required to take skin tests, x-ray examination, vaccination, inoculation and other immunization (with the exception of a rubella vaccination when the employee is of the opinion that a pregnancy is possible), unless the employee's physician has advised in writing that such a procedure may have an adverse effect on the employee's health.

## **32.03 Safe Workplace**

- (A) The Employer and employees recognize the need for a safe and healthful workplace and agree to take appropriate measures in order that risks of incidents, occupational disease, and violence are reduced and/or eliminated. Employers will take all reasonable steps to eliminate, reduce and/or minimize threats to the safety of employees.
- (B) An employee performing a visit to clients in the community may request to be accompanied by a member of the interdisciplinary team or other appropriate personnel for the initial home visit where the pre-screen assessment identifies a risk of violence or other hazard or where a pre-screen has not been completed. Employees shall have the right to request backup to attend for any subsequent home visits where there is reasonable cause to expect a violent situation and will have access to appropriate communication equipment.
- (C) When the Employer is aware that a patient/resident/client has a history of violent behaviour, the Employer shall make such information available to the employee. Upon admission or transfer the Employer will make every reasonable effort to identify the potential for aggressive behaviour. In-services and/or instruction in caring for the violent patient will be provided by the Employer.
- (D) It is recognized that health care workers are vulnerable to violence because they provide care directly to members of the public across all settings, including hospitals, care homes and in the community. The Employer will establish procedures and policies to minimize or eliminate the risk of workplace violence.



(E) The Employer will provide orientation and/or in-service which is necessary for the safe performance of work including universal precautions, the safe use of equipment, safe techniques for lifting and supporting patients/residents/clients, and the safe handling of materials and products. Nurses who are newly hired to work in community mental health or in a job that primarily provides services to a similar client population shall also be provided with orientation, job shadowing, and/or in-service where necessary for a minimum period of three (3) weeks including:

- job shadowing with an experienced nurse,
- familiarization with available patient resources,
- development of environmental assessment skills,
- orientation with client population,
- development of appropriate behavioral care plans, and
- policies for safe client visits.

The Employer will make readily available ongoing and updated information, manuals, online tools and procedures for these purposes. The Employer will provide appropriate safety clothing and equipment.

(F) Employers agree to provide employees with violence prevention training based on the program that was originally designed by the Provincial Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Employer will determine the level of training required for each employee through review of the worksite violence risk assessment for each area that the employee works in. When an employee works in their position(s) in multiple units or worksites, they will be trained in violence prevention to the required level of their assigned role on any of those units or worksites. The Employer will regularly provide Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSC) with the worksite violence prevention training rates. The Employer will provide the appropriate level of refresher training to all employees on an annual basis. Where operational requirements allow, these modules may be completed while at work. The modules of the program that are applicable to the

employee according to the program will be considered a compulsory in-service under Article 35.02.

The Employer will provide the necessary training to an employee in a new position as outlined in the Provincial Violence Prevention Committee's guidelines.

- (G) The Employer will provide OHS supervisory training to any nurse whose job duties include supervision and/or direction and annual refresher training. This training will be considered a compulsory in-service in accordance with Article 35.02.

The Employer will provide the necessary training to employees who are commencing work in a supervisory role.

### **32.04 Provision for Immunizations**

- (A) Where the Employer or Occupational Health and Safety Committee identifies high risk areas which expose nurses to infectious or communicable diseases for which there are protective immunizations available, such immunizations shall be provided at no cost to the employee.
- (B) Employees who may be exposed in the course of their employment to Hepatitis B shall be entitled to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine free of charge.

### **32.05 Critical Incident Support**

Critical incident support shall be offered and, if accepted, provided to employees who have suffered a work-related, traumatic incident including, but not limited to, violence, threat of violence, death of a colleague or an unusual or unexpected patient death or a series of such incidents. The Employer shall offer access to supports from a practitioner with experience in critical incident support and trauma informed practice including, but not limited to, psychologists, psychiatrists and/or registered clinical counsellors. All reasonable efforts shall be made to make appropriate supports and resources available within forty-eight (48) hours. The Employer shall notify employees of the availability of supports, including the time, date and location and if provided to the Employer in advance the name, experience and/or qualification(s) of the practitioner participating in the session. Employees may request such supports be made available at a later date/time. If an employee has concerns regarding the practitioner, the Employer

will consider those concerns which may include offering an alternative practitioner. Employees accessing support will be given time off from work without loss of pay to attend agreed to critical incident support, or be paid at the applicable rate of pay. Employee participation in critical incident support is voluntary.

### **32.06 Psychological Health & Safety**

The Employer and the Union agree to cooperate in the promotion of psychologically healthy and safe working conditions and practices.

The Health Authorities and Providence Health Care (PHC) shall continue their implementation of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Psychological Health and Safety Standard in all of their workplaces.

Health Authorities and Providence Health Care shall regularly communicate their implementation of the Psychological Health & Safety Standard to their employees in Employer worksites.

The Employer and Union agree that the thirteen (13) factors, as defined in the CSA Psychological Health and Safety Standard are:

- Organizational Culture
- Psychological and Social Support
- Clear Leadership & Expectations
- Civility & Respect
- Psychological Demands
- Growth & Development
- Recognition & Reward
- Involvement & Influence
- Workload Management
- Engagement
- Balance
- Psychological Protection
- Protection of Physical Safety

The Employer and Union agree that each of these factors must be assessed and, where necessary, improved in an ongoing manner in order to establish and maintain psychologically safe workplaces.

The Employer and Union recognize the role of Joint Occupational Health and Safety committees (JOHSC) in supporting psychologically healthy and safe workplaces. Therefore the JOHSC shall be engaged in local level identification of psychological health and safety hazards, promotion of psychologically healthy and safe workplaces, participate in related inspections and investigations and make recommendations for improving psychological health and safety in the workplace.

Within 120 days of ratification, the Employer and Union agree to request that the BC Health Care Occupational Health and Safety Society (currently known as SWITCH BC) develop standardized resources to support local JOHSC to fulfill their duties and functions to support psychologically healthy and safe workplaces.

## **ARTICLE 33 – LEAVE – COMPASSIONATE**

### **33.01 Application**

Compassionate leave of absence with pay shall be granted, upon request, to regular employees in the event of a death of a spouse (including common law), child, step-child, foster child, parent (or alternatively step-parent or foster parent), sibling, step-sibling, parent-in-law, sibling-in-law, parent's sibling or their spouse, grandparents, grandchild, legal guardian and any person who lives with an employee as a member of the employee's family.

### **33.02 Leave – With Pay**

Compassionate leave of absence with pay shall be granted for five (5) work days.

### **33.03 Leave – Without Pay**

Additional leave without pay may be requested by an employee. The Employer shall make every effort to grant additional compassionate leave of absence without pay. (Reference Article 43 Leave – Special.)

## **ARTICLE 34 – LEAVE – COURT APPEARANCE**

- (A) A regular employee who is required by law to serve as a juror or subpoenaed as a witness in any court, not being them-

selves a party to the proceedings, shall be granted a leave of absence with pay equal to the length of the court duty.

- (B) An employee in receipt of their regular rate of pay and benefits while at court shall remit to the Employer any witness or jury fees received for days that they are normally scheduled to work, providing these do not exceed their regular pay.

Travelling and meal allowances paid by the Court and not by the Employer shall not be remitted.

- (C) Regular employees who work evening or night shifts who are required by law to serve as jurors or subpoenaed as witnesses in any court, shall, at the employee's request, be relieved of their assigned shifts and shall be compensated pursuant to subsection (A) preceding.
- (D) In cases where an employee is a party to the proceedings and is required to appear in court, the Employer shall grant the employee an unpaid leave of absence.

## **ARTICLE 35 – LEAVE – EDUCATION – STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

### **35.01 Transfer of Function**

Where the Employer has agreed to a transfer of function, it will be the responsibility of the Employer to provide in-service programs/training to all nurses required to perform the function.

Employees required to attend such programs will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

### **35.02 In-Service Programs**

The parties to this collective agreement recognize the value of in-service education both to the employee and the Employer.

- (A) The Employer reserves the right to identify specific in-service programs deemed compulsory.
- (B) Employees required to attend such programs will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

### **35.03 General Education Programs**

- (A) **Employer Requested Leave**

An employee shall be granted leave with pay to take courses at the request of the Employer. The Employer shall bear the full cost of the course including tuition fees and course required books, necessary travelling and subsistence expenses. Courses identified by the joint OH&S Committee to promote a safe and healthy workplace and approved by the Employer, shall be treated like Employer requested leave.

**(B) Duration and Expenses**

A regular employee shall be granted leave from scheduled work shifts without loss of pay, and reasonable expenses, to take courses where the Employer has approved an employee request to take such courses or where the Employer has offered such courses to the employees on an optional basis.

**(C) Employee Requested Leave**

The Employer shall grant one (1) day's education leave of absence with pay, subject to the above approval, for each normally scheduled work day, as posted, that an individual regular employee gives of their own time. Such educational leave of absence with pay is not to exceed nine (9) days of Employer contribution from April 1, 1992.

**(D) Leave on Day Off**

Should alterations of the normally scheduled work day be made by the Employer so that an employee's educational day off falls on an off-duty day, the employee shall be paid for that day and be given an additional day off.

**(E) Employer Approved Education Programs**

Regular or casual employees attending Employer-approved education programs where the Employer pays 225 hours or more for the employee to participate, may be required to return to work at the same Employer for eighteen (18) months unless they have a bona fide reason.

Upon successful completion of the education program and where the Employer requires an eighteen (18) month return of service, the employee must return to, or post into, a regular position in the area of nursing applicable to the education program. Should no regular position be available, the employer

will create a regular relief line in the applicable nursing area equivalent to the employee's original FTE. Where the employee was casual prior to attending the education program, the regular relief line FTE will be based on the hours worked by the casual employee in the previous year or 0.5 FTE, whichever is greater. The employee will work in the regular relief line until the employee can secure regular employment in the applicable nursing area. The employee will not be required to post into a position which would result in a decrease in FTE or wages unless mutually agreed.

The eighteen (18) month period is extended by the length of time an employee is absent from work for any period greater than twenty (20) consecutive days, with the exception of vacation.

Should the employee fail to return to work for eighteen (18) months subsequent to the successful completion of the program without a bona fide reason, the employee must repay the total cost (including wages) of the education program to the Employer on a pro-rata basis. This clause will apply to employees who commence an education program on or after the effective date of this Agreement.

If the employee:

- (a) is determined to be unsatisfactory in the qualifying period;
- (b) is not successful in completing the program; or
- (c) voluntarily withdraws from the program at any time prior to the completion of the program,

the employee shall be returned to their previous unit, with the same FTE (full-time to full-time or part-time to part-time within 0.08 FTE) as their original position. This will be achieved either by placing the employee into an unfilled position that aligns with their original FTE or creating a unit-based relief line that aligns with the employee's original FTE. The employee will remain in the relief line until they are successful in obtaining a regular position on any unit, department, or program for which they are qualified to work. An employee who was previously casual will revert to casual on their previous unit(s).

## **ARTICLE 36 – LEAVE – ELECTIONS**

Employees who are eligible to vote in a Federal or Provincial election or referendum shall be entitled to four (4) consecutive hours free from work during the hours the polls are open to cast their vote. If in order to satisfy this provision an employee must absent themselves from work they shall suffer no loss of salary for the scheduled hours away from work.

## **ARTICLE 37 – LEAVE – GENERAL**

### **37.01 Application**

An employee granted any unpaid leave of absence totalling less than twenty-one (21) days in any calendar year shall continue to accumulate all benefits including applicable Superannuation or pension plans, provided the employee continues to remit their contributions during this period. Any excess over twenty (20) work days in any calendar year shall be deducted from length of service in the computation of benefits and for increment progression purposes unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the Union and the Employer.

Article 44.01(G) – Leave – Union shall not be deducted from the twenty (20) work days, or balance thereof, as expressed above.

### **37.02 Notice**

An employee may request unpaid leave of absence for any purpose. Requests for such leave of absence shall be made in writing to the representative designated by the Employer with the authority to accept such requests, and may be granted at the Employer's discretion. Reasonable notice of at least eight (8) days shall be given to minimize dislocation of staff. The Employer shall indicate to the employee, in writing, the acceptance or refusal of such request at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement date of the requested leave.

### **37.03 Increments**

Leave of absence shall not affect annual increments, when granted for educational purposes and parental leave. (Reference Article 12 – Anniversary Date and Increments.)

### **37.04 Domestic and Sexual Violence Leave**

- (A) If an employee or eligible person as defined in the *Employment Standards Act* experiences domestic or sexual violence,



then in each calendar year an employee is entitled to a leave as follows:

- (1) Up to five (5) days of paid leave (inclusive of the paid leave in the *Employment Standards Act*) taken in one or more blocks of time;
  - (2) Up to five (5) days of unpaid leave taken in one or more blocks of time; and
  - (3) Up to fifteen (15) weeks of additional unpaid leave taken in one block of time or, with the Employer's agreement, more than one block of time.
- (B) An employee's entitlement to leave under this Article is in addition to any entitlement to leave under other articles of the collective agreement.
- (C) An employee granted leave under this Article shall be entitled to benefits in accordance with Article 37.01 (Leave – General). For the balance of the leave taken pursuant to this Article, the service of an employee shall be considered continuous for the purpose of any pension, medical or other plan beneficial to the employee, and the employer shall continue to make payment to the plans in the same manner as if the employee was not absent.
- (D) Casual employees will not be required to be available for shifts as outlined above.
- (E) In the event that legislation enacts provisions with a greater entitlement to maximum weeks of leave related to domestic or sexual violence, that legislation provision shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE 38 – MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE**

### **38.01 Maternity and Parental Leave – Birthing Parent**

#### **(A) Maternity Leave**

A pregnant regular employee shall be granted up to seventeen (17) consecutive weeks maternity leave of absence without pay. Such leave may commence thirteen (13) weeks prior to the expected birth date or any time thereafter at the request of the employee. The maternity leave shall com-

mence immediately upon the birth if it occurs prior to the timeline outlined above. In no case shall an employee be required to return to work sooner than six (6) weeks following the birth or the termination of the pregnancy, unless a shorter time is requested by the employee and granted by the Employer.

**(B) Parental Leave**

In addition to a maternity leave of absence as described above, upon written request and within seventy-eight (78) weeks of the birth of the child, a regular employee shall also be granted an unpaid parental leave of absence of up to sixty-one (61) consecutive weeks. Parental leave will normally commence immediately following maternity leave unless agreed to by the Employer for reasons such as premature birth or a hospitalized infant.

**(C) Special Circumstances**

- (1) An employee is entitled to up to six (6) additional consecutive weeks of unpaid leave if, for reasons related to the birth or the termination of the pregnancy, they are unable to return to work when their leave ends under (A) above.

A request for special circumstances leave pursuant to Article 38.01(C)(1) must, if required by the Employer, be accompanied by a medical practitioner's certificate stating the expected or actual birth date or the date the pregnancy terminated or stating the reasons for requesting additional leave under this subsection.

- (2) If the new born child will be or is at least six (6) months of age at the time the child comes under the care of the employee, and a medical practitioner certifies that an additional period of parental care is required because the child suffers from a physical, psychological or emotional condition, the employee may apply for additional parental leave without pay. Five (5) weeks additional leave may be taken.
- (3) An employee's combined entitlement to leave under subsections (A), (B), and (C) of Article 38.01 is limited to eighty-nine (89) weeks.

- (D) Medical complications of pregnancy, including complications during an unpaid leave of absence under this Article, preceding the period stated by the *Employment Insurance Act*, shall be covered by sick leave credits providing the employee is not in receipt of maternity benefits under the Employment Insurance Act or any wage loss replacement plan.
- (E) The Employer may require the employee to provide a doctor's certificate indicating the employee's general condition during pregnancy and the expected birth date.
- (F) The Employer shall not terminate an employee or change a condition of their employment because of the employee's pregnancy or their absence for maternity reasons.

### **38.02 Maternity Leave Allowance**

- (A) An employee who qualifies for maternity leave pursuant to Article 38.01, shall be paid a maternity leave allowance in accordance with the Supplemental Employment Benefit (SEB) Plan. In order to receive this allowance, the employee must provide to the Employer, proof that they have applied for and are eligible to receive employment insurance benefits pursuant to the *Employment Insurance Act*.

In addition, the employee must specify whether they have elected for standard or extended parental leave benefit coverage as per the *Employment Insurance Act*.

- (B) Pursuant to the Plan, the maternity leave allowance will consist of:
  - (1) One (1) week at eighty-seven percent (87%) of the employee's normal weekly earnings;
  - (2) Sixteen (16) additional weekly payments equivalent to the difference between the employment insurance gross benefits plus any other earnings received by the employee and eighty-seven percent (87%) percent of the employee's normal weekly earnings.
  - (3) Benefits under this plan will not exceed seventeen (17) weeks inclusive of the one (1) week waiting period.

(4) For the purpose of this Plan, “normal weekly” earnings shall mean regularly scheduled hours multiplied by the employee’s basic rate of pay.

- (C) Employees are not entitled to receive the maternity leave allowance and sick leave benefits concurrently. However, an employee may opt to utilize accumulated sick leave credits instead of applying for benefits under this Plan, provided they satisfy the Employer that their absence is due to a valid health-related condition, and that they are unable to attend at work to perform their duties.

The employee shall not be prohibited from utilizing sick leave credits prior, or subsequent, a period of maternity leave.

- (D) To be eligible for the maternity leave allowance as described in paragraph B above, an employee must:
- (a) not be in receipt of sick leave benefits;
  - (b) must provide satisfactory documentation to the Employer that they have applied for and is in receipt of employment insurance benefits; and
  - (c) an employee who is not eligible for, or is disentitled to, employment insurance benefits is entitled to the full amount of allowance under the SEB Plan only under the following circumstances:
    - (i) the employee does not have a sufficient number of insurable weeks of employment to qualify (at least 20 weeks); or
    - (ii) the employee works less than the required number of hours (15 hours per week); or
    - (iii) the employee’s earnings are at least equal to 20% of the maximum weekly insurable earnings.

### **38.03 Parental Leave – Non-birthing Parent**

#### **(A) Parental Leave**

Upon written request, and within seventy-eight (78) weeks of the birth or placement of the child, a regular employee shall be entitled to parental leave of up to sixty-two (62) consecutive weeks without pay.

**(B) Special Circumstances**

If the new born or adopted child will be or is at least six (6) months of age at the time the child comes under the actual care and custody of the employee and a medical practitioner or agency that placed the child certifies that an additional period of parental care is required because the child suffers from a physical, psychological or emotional condition, a regular employee may apply for up to five (5) additional weeks parental leave without pay. The additional weeks must be taken immediately after the unpaid leave in Article 38.03(A) above. The combined parental leave and parental leave (special circumstances) cannot exceed sixty-seven (67) weeks.

**38.04 Benefits Continuation**

- (A) For leaves taken pursuant to Article 38.01 and 38.03 the first twenty (20) work days of such leave, the employee shall be entitled to the benefits under Article 37 (Leave – General).
- (B) For the balance of the leaves taken pursuant to Article 38.01 and 38.03, the service of an employee shall be considered continuous for the purpose of any pension, medical or other plan beneficial to the employee, and the Employer shall continue to make payment to the plans in the same manner as if the employee was not absent.
- (C) Any further leave granted will be unpaid leave without any benefits.

**38.05 Notice Requirement**

An employee shall make every effort to give four (4) weeks' notice prior to the commencement of a leave of absence pursuant to Article 38.01 and 38.03, and at least fourteen (14) days' notice of their intention to return to work prior to the termination of the leave of absence.

Notwithstanding the above, an adoptive parent will notify the employer when they are advised of the date of the adoptive placement. The employee shall furnish proof of adoption.

**38.06 Return to Employment**

- (A) An employee resuming employment after a leave of absence

pursuant to Article 38.01 and 38.03 shall be reinstated in all respects to their previous position or to a comparable position, with all increments to wages and benefits to which they would have been entitled during the period of their absence.

- (B) Notwithstanding Article 45, vacations, vacation entitlement, and vacation pay shall continue to accrue while an employee is on leave pursuant to Articles 38.01 and 38.03. At the employee's discretion, vacation earned pursuant to this Article may be paid out, taken at the end of the leave, or carried over to the following year notwithstanding Article 45.04.

### **38.07 Bridging of Service**

If a regular employee, who is employed for an Employer as defined in Article 1.02 of this Agreement, terminates as a result of a decision to raise a dependent child or children residing with the employee, and applies for and receives a regular position with the same Employer, the employee shall be credited with length of service accumulated at the time of termination.

The following conditions shall apply:

- (A) The employee must have completed three (3) years of service with the Employer.
- (B) The resignation must indicate that the reason for termination is to raise a dependent child or children.
- (C) The break in service shall be for no longer than three (3) years, and during that time the employee must not have been engaged in remunerative employment for more than six (6) months cumulative.
- (D) This bridging of service will apply to an employee who is employed by an Employer party to this Provincial Agreement and applies for and receives a regular position at the same work-site.
- (E) The employee must serve a three month probationary period.
- (F) An employee returning to work under this clause shall retain their former increment level and years of service for vacation purposes.

## **38.08 Casual Employees**

Casual employees shall not be required to be available for shifts for up to seventy-eight (78) weeks following the birth or adoption of a child pursuant to Article 38.01 and 38.03. Where the child has medical circumstances requiring continued care, the employee shall not be required to be available for work for up to an additional eleven (11) weeks pursuant to Article 38.01(C) or 38.03(B). The employer shall not terminate casual employment for the duration of this period as a result of this Article.

Where casual employees are unavailable for shifts as a result of this Article, the employee shall provide the Employer with notice consistent with Article 38.05

## **ARTICLE 39 – LEAVE – PAID HOLIDAYS**

### **39.01 Paid Holiday Entitlement**

Each regular employee shall receive a day off, on or for the following paid holidays and any other general holiday proclaimed by the Federal or Provincial Government:

New Year's Day	Labour Day
B.C Family Day	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Day
Easter Monday	Remembrance Day
Victoria Day (Queen's Birthday)	Christmas Day
Canada Day	Boxing Day
British Columbia Day	

### **39.02 Payment for Paid Holidays**

- (A) A regular full-time employee shall receive regular pay for each day off for the aforementioned paid holidays.
- (B) A regular part-time employee shall receive the following pay for the aforementioned paid holidays:

Days paid* per calendar year	x	regular pay x thirteen (13)
(excluding overtime)		261

\* Includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) work days

(Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

- (C) A casual employee receives paid holiday pay as part of pay in lieu of benefits. Reference Article 11.04(G)(2).

### **39.03 Work on a Paid Holiday**

#### **(A) Regular Employee**

- (1) A regular employee required to work New Year's Day, B.C. Family Day, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, B.C. Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, and Boxing Day shall be paid at the rate of two (2) times for the first 7.5 hours work in the day, provided that Articles 27.05, 29.04, and 39.04 are not applicable, and shall receive another day off with pay as a paid holiday. The rate of two (2) times shall be paid for a shift when one-half (1/2) or more than one-half (1/2) of the hours worked fall within 0001 hours and 2400 hours on the named day. In such cases the rate of two (2) times shall be paid for the total hours worked.

#### **(2) Super Stats**

Employees who are required to work on Christmas Day, Labour Day or Good Friday, shall be paid at the rate of two and one-half (2.5) times for the first 7.5 hours worked and shall receive another day off with pay as a paid holiday. The rate of two and one-half (2.5) times shall be paid for the full shift when one-half (1/2) or more than one-half (1/2) of the hours worked fall within 0001 and 2400 hours on the named day. In such cases, the rate of two and one-half (2.5) times shall be paid for the total hours worked.

#### **(B) Casual Employee**

A casual employee who works on a paid holiday listed in Article 39.03(A)(1) shall be paid two (2) times their rate of pay. A casual employee who works on a paid holiday listed in Article 39.03(A)(2), shall be paid of two and one-half (2.5) times their rate of pay.



## **39.04 Premium Rates of Pay**

### **(A) Overtime**

Overtime at the rate of one and one-half (1.5) times the appropriate stat holiday rate shall be paid to an employee for all hours of overtime worked on the paid holiday. (Reference Article 27.05 – Overtime Pay Calculation.)

### **(B) Call-Back**

Call-back pay at the rate of one and one-half times (1.5) the appropriate stat holiday rate shall be paid to an employee for all hours called back to work on the paid holiday, with a minimum of two (2) hours' pay at the appropriate rate for each separate call-back. (Reference Article 29.04(B) – Call-Back on a Paid Holiday.)

### **(C) Three Different Shifts Worked in Any Seven Consecutive Days**

If a regular full-time employee is scheduled to work three (3) different shifts in any seven (7) consecutive day period and if the employee works on one of the paid holidays listed in Article 39.01 as the third shift change, then unless this arrangement is requested by the employee, the employee shall be paid one and one-half (1.5) times the appropriate stat holiday rate for all hours worked on the paid holiday.

### **(D) Changes in Schedule with Insufficient Notice**

Should the Employer change the work schedule without fourteen (14) calendar days advance notice and as a consequence the regular employee is required to work on the paid holiday, then the employee shall be paid the appropriate overtime rate for all hours worked and receive another day off with pay as a rescheduled paid holiday.

## **39.05 Paid Holiday Coinciding with a Rest Day**

Where a paid holiday falls on the regular employee's day off, the employee shall receive an additional day off with pay.

## **39.06 Paid Holiday Coinciding with a Vacation**

Where a paid holiday falls within a regular employee's vacation, the employee shall receive an additional day off with pay.

## **39.07 Scheduling of Paid Holidays**

### **(A) Application**

Subject to operational requirements reasonably applied, paid holidays whenever possible shall be scheduled for a time which is mutually agreeable to the Employer and the employee concerned.

### **(B) Christmas Day or New Year's Day**

Where the worksite operates on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, a regular employee shall receive either Christmas Day or New Year's Day off unless the employee requests to work both days and this is agreed to by the Employer.

### **(C) Sick Leave**

Where a regular employee has been on sick leave immediately prior to the employee's scheduled paid holiday and immediately following such scheduled paid holiday, then the scheduled paid holiday shall become a day to which sick leave credits shall be applied and the day shall be rescheduled.

## **ARTICLE 40 – LEAVE – PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

Leave of absence without loss of pay may be granted for professional meetings not exceeding one week, subject to the approval of the Employer. The Employer shall make every endeavour to grant such leave of absence.

## **ARTICLE 41 – LEAVE – PUBLIC OFFICE**

Employees shall be granted an unpaid leave of absence to enable them to run for an elected public office, including Municipal, Provincial, Federal, First Nation or other Indigenous government if nominated, and if elected, to serve their term(s) of office. (Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

## **ARTICLE 42 – LEAVE – SICK**

### **42.01 Accumulation**

- (A) Regular employees are eligible to accumulate sick leave credits based on length of service.

- (B) Regular full-time employees shall receive 1.5 working days sick leave credits for each month of service.
- (C) Regular part-time employees shall receive sick leave credits for each month of service as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Hours paid per month* (excluding overtime)} \times 1.5}{162.5}$$

\* Includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) work days. (Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

- (D) Sick leave credits, if not used, shall accumulate to a maximum of one hundred and fifty-six (156) work days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, employees with accumulated sick leave credits in excess of one hundred and fifty-six (156) work days (1170 hours), shall retain the accumulated balance to their credit. Where this accumulated balance exceeds 1170 hours, no further credits shall be earned until the accumulated balance is reduced below 1170 hours, in which event the accumulation of sick leave shall be reinstated, but the accumulated balance shall not again exceed 1170 hours.

#### **42.02 Payment**

Regular full-time employees shall receive their regular pay for each day of sick leave credit utilized.

Regular part-time employees shall receive their regular pay for scheduled work hours lost.

#### **42.03 Proof of Sickness**

Sick leave with pay is only payable because of sickness or injury and employees who are absent from duty because of sickness may be required by the Employer to prove sickness. Failure to meet this requirement can be cause for disciplinary action. Repeated failure to meet this requirement can lead to dismissal. A doctor's certificate may be requested for each leave of more than three (3) consecutive work days.

#### **42.04 Benefits Accrue**

When an employee is on paid sick leave all benefits of this Agreement shall continue to accrue.

## **42.05 Notice Required**

Employees must notify the Employer prior to the commencement of their shift of any anticipated absence from duty because of sickness and employees must notify the Employer prior to their return to work.

## **42.06 Expiration of Sick Leave Credits**

Employees who are absent due to sickness beyond their accumulated sick leave credits shall be placed on an unpaid leave of absence until they are in receipt of long-term disability benefits. (Reference Article 37 Leave – General and Article 46.05 – Long-Term Disability Insurance Plan.)

## **42.07 Leave – Workers’ Compensation**

### **(A) Entitlement to Leave**

An employee shall be granted workers’ compensation leave with net pay in the event that the Workers’ Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC) determines that the employee has established a claim (time loss benefits) and they are unable to perform their duties by reason of the compensable injury which occurred while employed by the Employer. For the purposes of this clause, net pay is defined as the employee’s regular net take-home wages to ensure that the non-taxable status of workers’ compensation benefits does not provide an opportunity for an injured worker to earn more while on claim than if they were working. The calculation of net pay must be established and placed in the employee’s disability management case file once the claim is filed. Additional shifts worked by part-time employees, shift and weekend premiums, responsibility pay, and statutory holiday premiums shall be taken into account when calculating “regular net take-home wages”.

The term claim will not include any form of WorkSafeBC allowance or pension, and this section will not be operative while an employee is receiving such a different form of payment from WorkSafeBC arising from this claim.

### **(B) Reimbursement to Employer**

The employee shall pay to the Employer any amount received for loss of wages in settlement of any claims.

(C) **Benefit Entitlement**

When an employee is on a WorkSafeBC claim all benefits of the Agreement will continue to accrue. However, an employee off work on WorkSafeBC claim shall receive net wages as defined by (A) above, and benefits equaling but not to exceed their normal entitlement had they not suffered a compensable injury. For the first twenty (20) work days on claim, an employee will continue to accrue paid holidays and vacation credits. Once the claim exceeds twenty (20) work days, paid holidays and vacation credits will not accrue. However, unused vacation credits accrued prior to the claim shall not be lost as a result of this clause.

Where an employee suffers an injury/illness due to workplace violence, the employer will maintain the employee's benefits and wages until the claim is adjudicated.

(D) **Approval of Claim**

When an employee is granted sick leave with pay and workers' compensation leave is subsequently approved for the same period it shall be considered for the purpose of the record of sick leave credits that the employee was not granted sick leave with pay.

(E) **Continuation of Employment**

Employees who qualify for workers' compensation coverage shall be continued on the payroll and shall not have their employment terminated during the compensable period while they are under an approved WorkSafeBC claim or awaiting adjudication of a claim, except for just cause. Upon return to work following recovery, an employee who was on claim for less than twenty-nine (29) months shall continue in their former job; an employee who was on claim for more than twenty-nine (29) months shall return to an equivalent position, exercising their seniority rights if necessary, pursuant to Article 13 & Article 19.

(F) **Emergency Appointments**

Absence from work to attend emergency medical or dental appointments and medical appointments arising from a work-related incident covered by WorkSafeBC, shall be paid for from the employee's accumulated sick leave.

## **42.08 Enforceable Legal Claim**

If an employee has received sick leave with pay and has a legally enforceable claim to compensation or damages for earnings lost during the said period from any third party other than the employee's own insurer under a contract of insurance, the employee shall, at the request and expense of the Employer, take all steps reasonably necessary to enforce the said claim. If the employee receives any payment of accounts of earnings as a result of such claim, the employee shall pay to the Employer, so much of the said payment as related to the sick leave pay received by the employee for the said period and upon so doing, shall receive sick leave credit for the number of days represented by such payment.

## **42.09 Appointments**

- (A) Subject to operational requirements and upon at least eight (8) days' notice, absence from work to attend other than emergency medical or dental appointments shall be paid for from accumulated sick leave when the employee is unable to arrange the appointment for their normal off-duty hours.
- (B) When an employee's doctor refers the employee to a specialist then any necessary travel time to a maximum of three (3) work days, for the employee to visit such specialist shall be paid for and deducted from sick leave credits.
- (C) The employee will be required to furnish proof of need in both (A) and (B) above.

## **42.10 Six Months Service**

If an employee does not complete six (6) months service with the Employer, any sick leave with pay used during the first six (6) months shall be returnable to the Employer. Previous experience of an employee who has changed employment under the portability provision of this Agreement shall count towards this six (6) month period. In effect the employee only has to work a total of six (6) months qualifying time. (Reference Article 51 – Portability.)

## **42.11 Cash-In of Sick Leave Credits**

- (A) Employees leaving the work force on or after their 55th birthday will be entitled to a cash payment equal to forty percent (40%) of the value of their accumulated sick leave credits,

based on their existing salary at the time of leaving the work force.

- (B) The cash payout of sick leave credits eliminates all unused, banked sick leave credits. In the event the nurse rejoins the work force, they shall not be entitled to any residual sick time credit from a bank that previously was cashed out.
- (C) In the event a nurse rejoins the work force, they will not be entitled to any second payout of sick credits on any subsequent departure from the work force.
- (D) Employees who are dismissed for just cause shall not be entitled for a payout as contemplated in this article.
- (E) Effective January 1, 2013, new employees will not be entitled to cash in their sick leave credits under Article 42.11.

#### **42.12 Sick or Injured Prior to Vacation**

In the event an employee is sick or injured prior to the commencement of their vacation, such employee shall be granted sick leave and the vacation period so displaced shall be added to the vacation period if requested by the employee and agreed to by the Employer, or the time shall be credited for use at a later date.

#### **42.13 Voluntary Treatment**

While in voluntary attendance at a full-time treatment program for substance abuse, a regular employee shall on proof of enrolment, be entitled to sick leave with pay to the extent that sick leave credits are available. Article 42.06 shall apply upon expiration of sick leave credits should additional leave be requested.

### **ARTICLE 43 – LEAVE – SPECIAL AND PERSONAL**

#### **43.01 Special Leave**

##### **(A) Accumulation**

An employee shall earn special leave credits with pay up to a maximum of twenty (20) days at the rate of one-half (0.5) day every four (4) weeks. Special leave shall be granted to a maximum of the accumulated leave at the time the special leave is taken.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, employees with accumulated special leave credits in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) hours (20 days X 7.5 hours) as of the first pay period following June 5, 2006, shall retain the accumulated balance to their credit. Where this accumulated credit exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) hours, no further credit shall be earned until the accumulated balance is reduced below one hundred and fifty (150) hours, in which event the accumulation of special leave credits shall be reinstated, but the accumulated balance shall not again exceed one hundred fifty (150) hours.

**(B) Application**

Special leave shall be granted as follows:

- (1) marriage leave – five (5) days;
- (2) parental leave – five (5) days;
- (3) to provide care to an immediate family member who has a serious illness up to two (2) days at one time;
- (4) to assist an immediate family member who has a serious or potentially life-threatening illness with obtaining health education related to the serious or potentially life-threatening illness up to one (1) working day per calendar year;
- (5) leave of one (1) day may be added to five (5) days compassionate leave;
- (6) leave of one (1) day may be taken for travel associated with compassionate leave;
- (7) leave of up to three (3) days for absences resulting from the employee or employee's dependent child having experienced domestic or sexual violence.

### **43.02 Personal Leave**

#### **Preamble**

The parties agree to create a leave structure that better reflects the realities of the lives of working nurses.

Effective January 1, 2023 and on each January 1 thereafter – all regular full-time and part-time employees will receive two (2) personal leave days per calendar year.



Such personal days are subject to operational requirements and can be attached to other leaves of absence, including vacation and paid statutory holidays.

The parties agree to the joint interpretation on personal leave signed April 1, 2023.

## **ARTICLE 44 – LEAVE – UNION**

### **44.01 Union Leave of Absence**

An employee on an unpaid Union leave of absence shall have their wages, benefits and seniority continued by the Employer, and the Union agrees to reimburse the Employer for the costs of such wages and benefits.

Employees requesting leave under this article will provide the Employer with as much advance notice as possible of the dates of the leave.

For leave requests that are subject to operational requirements, the Employer will consider all of the circumstances including the length of notice provided, and will make all reasonable efforts to grant the leave.

Where there are less than fifteen (15) regular employees at a worksite at the time the leave request is submitted, and subject to operational requirements, unpaid Union leave of absence will be granted to one (1) employee for the purpose of conducting Union business. This would be an additional person on Union leave at worksites where the position of the Union President or Council member has been back-filled for the duration of their term of office.

Within fourteen (14) days of the leave request being made, the Employer shall grant a leave of absence without pay to an employee who is a member of the Union and who is:

- (A) a Union Council/Board member. Such leave shall be granted for the purpose of attending regular or special meetings of the Council/Board and shall include reasonable travel time.
- (B) either elected or appointed to represent the Union and/or a region at annual or special conventions of the Union.
- (C) a member of the Union's bargaining committee. Such leave (including travelling time) shall be granted to attend prepara-

tory negotiating meetings, to conduct negotiations, and to participate in mediation, industrial inquiry commissioner hearings and arbitrations.

- (D) selected by the Union or its members as a delegate to attend the Provincial Bargaining Conference.
- (E) selected by the Union or its members as a delegate to attend regional Bargaining Conference.
- (F) appointed or elected to special or standing committees of the Union or for the purposes of conducting Union business. A leave of absence granted under this category shall be subject to the operational requirements of the worksite.
- (G) union leave for members of the Bargaining Committee (C) and Council/Board members (A) shall not affect the employee's benefits, seniority or increment anniversary date, and such leave shall be exempt from the provisions of Article 37.
- (H) an employee who holds the position of full-time president or Council members with the Union shall be granted a leave of absence without pay for the period during which they hold the position.

Such leave will not affect the employee's seniority, increment anniversary date, service for the purpose of vacation leave, sick leave and special leave accumulation. The Employer will continue to pay the premiums for medical, dental, extended health, group life and LTD while the employee is on leave and the Union will reimburse the Employer for the costs of such benefits.

The employee shall be entitled to return to their former position with the Employer, and shall be provided with an adequate period of orientation upon their return to work.

The employee shall not be subject to discipline by the Employer for activities related to work on behalf of the Union.

#### **44.02 Peak Period Restrictions**

In order to facilitate the granting of vacation, union leave pursuant to Article 44.01(F) will not be granted during the following peak periods:

- (a) June 25 – September 8
- (b) Spring Break
- (c) December 15 – January 5

Notwithstanding the above, where Union Leave is applied for by the Chief Executive Officer of the Union on behalf of its members, the leave will be granted using all reasonable efforts.

## **ARTICLE 45 – LEAVE – VACATION**

### **45.01 Vacation Entitlement**

- (A) Regular employees shall be entitled to vacation leave based on length of service.
- (B) July 1 shall be the cut-off date for the annual accrual of vacation entitlement.
- (C) Regular full-time employees shall be entitled to vacation leave at their regular rate of pay when the qualifying year(s) of service are attained before July 1, as follows:
  - 20 work days after 1 year of continuous\* service
  - 20 work days after 2 years of continuous service
  - 20 work days after 3 years of continuous service
  - 20 work days after 4 years of continuous service
  - 21 work days after 5 years of continuous service
  - 22 work days after 6 years of continuous service
  - 23 work days after 7 years of continuous service
  - 24 work days after 8 years of continuous service
  - 25 work days after 9 years of continuous service
  - 26 work days after 10 years of continuous service
  - 27 work days after 11 years of continuous service
  - 28 work days after 12 years of continuous service
  - 29 work days after 13 years of continuous service
  - 30 work days after 14 years of continuous service

- 31 work days after 15 years of continuous service
  - 32 work days after 16 years of continuous service
  - 33 work days after 17 years of continuous service
  - 34 work days after 18 years of continuous service
  - 35 work days after 19 years of continuous service
  - 36 work days after 20 years of continuous service
  - 37 work days after 21 years of continuous service
  - 38 work days after 22 years of continuous service
  - 39 work days after 23 years of continuous service
  - 40 work days after 24 years of continuous service
  - 41 work days after 25 years of continuous service
  - 42 work days after 26 years of continuous service
  - 43 work days after 27 years of continuous service
  - 44 work days after 28 years of continuous service
  - 45 work days after 29 years of continuous service
- (Reference Article 51 – Portability)

\*continuous service means years of service with the Employer but does not include any of the following periods:

- a. Time spent as a casual employee.
  - b. Time spent on an unpaid leave of absence beyond 20 work days in any year.
  - c. Time spent on layoff.
  - d. Time spent in receipt of long-term disability insurance plan benefits.
- (D) Regular part-time employees are entitled to vacation leave on a pro-rata basis as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Days paid* (excluding overtime)}}{\text{to June 30 inclusive x regular pay}} \times \text{yearly vacation entitlement}$$

\* includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) days.

- (E) Regular employees with less than one (1) years' service on the July 1 cut-off date shall receive vacation leave calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Days paid* (excluding overtime) x yearly vacation entitlement to June 30 inclusive x regular pay}}{261}$$

\* includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) days (reference Article 37 Leave – General).

Any fraction of a day shall be given as paid time off at a time mutually agreed to by the Employer and the employee. If a mutually agreed time cannot be determined during the calendar year January 1 to December 31 for the time to be taken, then the employee shall be paid out for the time owing at December 31 in each year. Application of the foregoing shall not be governed by the provisions of Article 45.04 Scheduling of Vacation.

#### **45.02 Terminating Employees**

- (A) When a regular employee with more than twelve (12) months' service terminates employment, the Employer shall pay for vacation entitlement accrued to the date of termination, less vacation pay if any, paid in accordance with this Article. Such vacation entitlement shall be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Days paid* (excluding overtime) x yearly vacation entitlement to June 30 (in previous vacation x regular pay)}}{261}$$

+ (plus)

$$\frac{\text{Days paid* (excluding overtime) x yearly vacation entitlement to July 1 in the vacation year to the date of termination (inclusive) x regular pay}}{261}$$

\* includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) days (reference Article 37 Leave – General).

- (B) When a regular employee with less than twelve (12) months' service terminates employment, the employee shall be paid, as vacation pay, six percent (6%) of their gross wages, less vacation pay, if any, paid in accordance with this Article.
- (C) Employees who terminate part way through a calendar year and who have taken more days of vacation than earned according to the formula above will have unearned vacation taken repaid to the Employer.

#### **45.03 Supplementary Vacation**

The supplementary vacations as set out below are to be banked on the outlined supplementary vacation employment anniversary date and taken at the employee's option at any time subsequent to the current supplementary vacation employment anniversary date but prior to the next supplementary vacation employment anniversary date.

- (A) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of twenty-five (25) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional five (5) work days' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (B) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of thirty (30) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional ten (10) work days' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (C) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of thirty-five (35) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional fifteen (15) work days' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (D) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of forty (40) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional fifteen (15) work days' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (E) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of forty-five (45) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an

additional fifteen (15) work days' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.

#### **45.04 Scheduling of Vacation**

- (A) The Employer shall permit annual vacations to be taken during the entire year.
- (B) The scheduling of vacations shall be subject to the operational requirements of the Employer.
- (C) The selection of vacation and the posting of the approved vacation schedule shall be completed by December 31st of the preceding calendar year or any other date mutually agreed at the local level. Such local agreements shall be filed with the Union and HEABC.
- (D) Notwithstanding Article 45.04(C), employees may hold back up to thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours in the annual vacation planning process. This remaining vacation must be requested and approved by August 1st of each year. Any remaining vacation not scheduled may be scheduled by the Employer.
- (E) Once the approved vacation schedule has been posted, it shall only be changed by mutual consent.
- (F) Vacation entitlement accrued to June 30 (inclusive) shall be taken prior to January 1 in the following year unless otherwise required by operational necessity.

Despite the above, where an employee's vacation is cancelled by the Employer due to operational requirements, the employee may elect to carry over up to seven (7) days to be used no later than June 30 in the following year.

Unused vacation shall be paid out at straight time rates by the last pay period of February of the following year. Payout shall not include any carryover of vacation pursuant to the above.

- (G) Employees may, prior to the scheduling of vacations, request to have their vacations scheduled in accordance with either the principle of seniority or on a rotating basis. Where a con-

sensus of employees cannot be reached as above, vacations shall be scheduled according to seniority on the basis that the employees with the most seniority shall have the first choice of vacation times. Employees failing to exercise their rights within the vacation selection time posted by the Employer shall forfeit their seniority rights in respect to choice of vacation time.

- (H) Vacation time may be divided and shall be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to the employee and the Employer, however, an employee who splits their vacation shall not receive their choice of when they wish to take the subsequent portion of their vacation until all other employees in the unit or department have made their first choice of vacation time.

#### **45.05 Vacation Entitlement Earned During Vacation**

Vacation entitlement shall be earned during vacation periods, except for accrued entitlement paid on termination.

#### **45.06 Vacation Pay Advance**

Vacation pay to which an employee is entitled shall be made to the employee at least seven (7) calendar days before the beginning of their vacation, provided the employee gives the Employer at least fourteen (14) days' written advance notice. The amount of their vacation pay shall be based on the number of work days of planned absence due to vacation.

### **ARTICLE 46 – CEREMONIAL, CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL AND COMPASSIONATE LEAVE FOR INDIGENOUS EMPLOYEES**

Indigenous employees have a right upheld by BC Law, including the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c. 14, to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies and may require leave from work to exercise these rights.

#### **Definitions:**

A ceremonial, cultural, or spiritual event under this section includes any event that is significant to an Indigenous employee's culture. Examples of significant cultural events include, but are not limited to, Hoobiyee, Pow-wows, Sundance, participation in a sweat lodge,



coming of age events, feasts or ceremonies held following a significant family event (including the death of a family member).

“Family” for the purposes of accessing Compassionate leave includes an Indigenous Elder\* or any individual an Indigenous employee considers family consistent with their Indigenous cultural practices.

\* An Indigenous Elder is designated as such by their community.

- a) Effective April 1, 2023, an Indigenous employee may request up to five (5) days of leave per calendar year without loss of pay to participate in ceremonial, cultural, or spiritual event(s). The leave may be taken in one or more blocks of time. Where such leave is requested, the leave shall not be unreasonably denied. Leave under this provision is in addition to an Indigenous employee’s entitlement to leave under Article 33.01 – Compassionate Leave as applicable (and per the expanded definition of “family”).
- b) Where an Indigenous employee requires more than the days of leave in a) above for a ceremonial, cultural, or spiritual event, the leave shall not be unreasonably denied. This additional leave is unpaid, however, an employee may draw from their available vacation and overtime banks, as applicable.
- c) When requesting the leave, particularly for annual or recurring ceremonial, cultural, or spiritual events, the employee will provide as much advanced notice to the Employer as possible; for unexpected ceremonies or events, the employee will make every effort to provide at least seven (7) calendar days’ notice of the leave.
- d) The employer will share annually with the Union relevant and available aggregate data relating to utilization of this leave. In consideration of the unique harms that improper or inadvertent use or disclosure of this data could cause, the Union will ensure safeguards are in place which, among other things, limit access to this data as much as practicably possible. The parties agree that the purpose of sharing this data is to further the parties’ shared commitment to reconciliation and decolonization. To this end, the Union will obtain the providing employer’s agreement prior to utilizing the data for any external purpose.

## **ARTICLE 47 – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

- (A) All employees shall be covered by the provisions of the *Workers’ Compensation Act*. (Reference Article 42 – Leave – Sick)

## **ARTICLE 48 – EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

### **48.01 Coverage**

Eligible employees shall be covered by the *Employment Insurance Act* or succeeding Acts.

### **48.02 Rebates**

Premium rebates given by the Employment Insurance Commission shall be paid directly to the employees by the Employer.

## **ARTICLE 49 – PENSION PLAN**

### **49.01 Municipal Pension Plan**

Regular employees shall be covered by the provisions of the Municipal Pension Plan. All regular employees shall be entitled to join the Pension Plan after three (3) months of employment and shall continue in the Plan as a condition of employment. (Reference Article 51 – Portability.)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, new regular part-time employees who are hired may, at the time of hiring, decline being covered by the Municipal Pension Plan for the period of their regular part-time employment.

Employees shall be eligible for enrollment in the Municipal Pension Plan in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and the Municipal Pension Plan Rules. As at the date of ratification of this collective agreement the Municipal Pension Plan Rules provided the following:

A temporary employee who has been employed in a continuous full-time capacity with the same Employer for a period of twelve (12) months, shall be enrolled in the Plan as a condition of employment.

Casual employees who have completed two (2) years of continuous employment with earnings from the Employer of not less than thirty-five (35) percent of the year’s maximum pensionable earn-

ings in each of two (2) consecutive calendar years shall be enrolled in the Plan as a condition of employment, unless the employee gives the Employer a written waiver not more than ninety (90) days after the date the Plan begins to apply to the employee.

- 49.02** At the request of the employee, the Employer shall provide the employee with pertinent pension plan information.

## **ARTICLE 50 – EXEMPT AND SAVE HARMLESS**

The Employer shall insure to:

- (A) exempt and save harmless employees from any liability action arising from the proper performance of their duties for the Employer, and
- (B) assume all costs, legal fees and other expenses arising from any such action.

## **ARTICLE 51 – PORTABILITY**

### **51.01 Portability**

A regular employee who terminates with an Employer as defined in Article 1.02, and is employed within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days with the same or another Employer as covered by this Provincial Collective Agreement, is entitled to the portability of benefits as specified in 51.02 below.

Periods of up to one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days out of service, when porting, shall not count as a discontinuity, but such periods shall be excluded when calculating benefits.

An employee eligible for portability of benefits, who has applied for a regular position, and is unsuccessful, but is hired as a casual shall have noted in their letter of appointment that they are seeking regular employment. In such instance they shall be entitled to portability of benefits specified in 51.02 for a period of 365 calendar days from date of termination at “A”.

### **51.02 Portable Benefits**

The Employer from which an employee is porting shall be called “A” and the Employer the employee is porting to shall be called “B”.

(A) **Increments**

The salary increment step attained in “A” shall be portable with the provision that the employee shall serve twelve (12) months in “B” at that step. The employee’s first day of employment in “B” therefore, becomes their increment anniversary date.

(B) **Leave – Sick**

Sick leave credits which are recognized by “A” shall be credited by “B”.

(C) **Leave – Vacation**

Years of service for vacation entitlement earned during previous employment and recognized in “A” shall be credited by “B”.

(D) **Medical, Dental, Extended Health Care Coverage and Long-Term Disability Insurance Plan Coverage**

- (i) Coverage for Medical, Dental and Extended Health Care Coverage shall be effective on the first day of the month following the initial date of regular employment.
- (ii) Coverage for Long-Term Disability shall be effective on the initial date of regular employment at “B”.

(E) **Municipal Superannuation**

Eligible employees shall be brought within the scope of the *Pension (Municipal) Act* as of the first day of employment in “B” (Not applicable to Proprietary Employers i.e. For-Profit Employers).

For the purposes of this provision “eligible employee” means one who has not withdrawn their contribution from the Municipal Superannuation Plan when terminating in “A”.

(F) **Qualification Differential**

Employees on staff as of January 1, 1974, who are receiving a qualification differential under Articles 53.01 and 53.04 and who transfer from one Employer to another under Article 51.01 shall port this qualification differential.

Employees hired prior to the first pay period following April 1, 2016 shall port their eligibility for a qualification differential as set out in Articles 53.04 and 53.05, subject to the conditions set out in Article 51.01

**(G) Severance Allowance**

Portability of severance allowance is covered by the provisions of Article 55 – Severance Allowance:

A regular employee who voluntarily resigns and is later re-hired by an Employer covered by this Collective Agreement within one (1) year, shall have portability of length of service for the purposes of the severance allowance provision.

**(H) “Seniority in ‘A’ shall be credited by ‘B’.”**

**(I)** Special leave hours recognized by “A” shall be credited by “B”.

## **ARTICLE 52 – PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE**

### **52.01 Regular Employees**

Where a new employee who does not qualify for portability of benefits under Article 51 is employed for a regular position, salary recognition as follows shall be granted for relevant nursing experience as determined by the Employer, provided not more than two (2) years have elapsed since such experience was obtained:

One (1) annual increment for every one (1) year’s experience. Where more than two (2) years have elapsed since such experience was obtained, salary recognition shall be granted as follows:

One (1) annual increment for every one (1) year’s experience minus one (1) increment for each year in excess of two (2) years to a maximum of a five (5) year lapse.

If more than five (5) years have lapsed, there shall be no credit for previous experience.

Any time spent in an education program mutually acceptable to the Employer and the Union shall not be counted as experience but shall not constitute a break in service.

A casual employee who terminates with an Employer as defined in Article 1.02, and is employed within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days as a regular employee with another Employer who is covered by this Provincial Collective Agreement shall retain the increment step attained with the previous Employer. The employee's first day of employment with the new Employer becomes their increment anniversary date.

## **ARTICLE 53 – QUALIFICATION DIFFERENTIAL**

### **53.01 Special Clinical Preparation**

A regular employee with special clinical preparation of not less than four (4) months approved by the Employer, and who is employed in the special service for which they are qualified, shall be paid an additional fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month if they have utilized the course within four (4) years prior to employment.

Employees on staff as of January 1, 1974, who are receiving a differential under this Article shall continue to receive such differential until such time as their employment terminates. Employees moving from one Employer to another under the portability provisions of this Agreement shall port this salary differential. (Reference Article 51.02 – Portable Benefits)

Employees with a Diploma in Advanced Psychiatric Nursing shall receive an additional fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month if they have utilized the course within four (4) years prior to employment.

### **53.02 CHA/CNA and BCIT Courses**

A regular employee who has successfully completed the CHA/ CNA course Nursing Unit Administration and/or CHA Hospital Department Management Course and/or BCIT certificate program in Health Care Management, and is employed in a capacity utilizing the course(s) shall be paid an additional twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month.

### **53.03 Registered Psychiatric Nurse**

A regular employee who acquires and maintains registration under both the *Nurses (Registered) Act* and the *Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) Act* shall be paid an additional fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month for clinical preparation.

### **53.04 University Preparation**

A regular employee who has passed an accredited one (1) year university course in nursing shall receive an additional twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month.

For the purpose of this Article, a Diploma in Public Health shall qualify for the qualification differential only if the employee is employed in the special service for which they are qualified.

Employees on staff as of January 1, 1974, who are receiving a differential under this Article shall continue to receive such differential until such time as their employment terminates. Employees moving from one Employer to another under the portability provisions of this Agreement shall port this salary differential. (Reference Article 51.02 – Portable Benefits)

### **53.05 Baccalaureate Degree**

#### **(A) In Nursing**

A regular employee who has received a Baccalaureate Degree in nursing shall receive an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month.

#### **(B) Other**

This allowance will also be paid to nurses who have a Baccalaureate Degree in Psychology or a Baccalaureate Degree in Health Sciences – Advanced Psychiatric Nursing where this qualification is utilized in the course of the nurse's performance of their normal job duties.

Effective the first pay period after April 1, 2016, new employees (RN/RPN/LPN) shall not be eligible to receive the Qualification Differential payments set out in Articles 53.04 (University Preparation) and 53.05 (Baccalaureate Degree).

### **53.06 Master's Degree**

#### **(A) In Nursing**

A regular employee who has received a Master's Degree in nursing shall receive an additional one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per month.

**(B) Other**

- (i) This allowance will also be paid to nurses who have a Master's Degree in Psychology where this qualification is utilized in the course of the nurse's performance of their normal job duties.
- (ii) A regular employee who has received a Master's Degree in a course of study approved by the Employer and where this qualification is utilized in the course of the performance of the employee's duties, and where such qualification does not form part of the job requirement, the employee shall receive an additional one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per month.

**53.07 Multiple Payments Prohibited**

An employee may not qualify for more than one (1) payment under categories in Articles 53.02, 53.04, 53.05 and 53.06.

**53.08 Approval of Qualifications**

The employee must provide proof of qualifications listed in 53.04, 53.05 and 53.06. The qualifications must be from an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution or equivalent.

**ARTICLE 54 – ISOLATION TRAVEL ALLOWANCE**

Effective April 1, 2023, employees shall be paid a lump sum isolation travel allowance of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per month provided that:

- (i) they are employed by employers who are situated in the locations listed below; and
- (ii) they work in the locations listed below.

Alert Bay	Fort St. James	Port Hardy
Alexis Creek	Fort St. John	Port McNeill
Anaham	Fraser Lake	Pouce Coupe
Atlin	Gold River	Prince Rupert
Bamfield	Hazelton	Daajing Giids
Bella Bella (Waglisla)	Houston	Smithers



Bella Coola	Hudson Hope	Sparwood
Blue River	Kaslo	Stewart
Burns Lake	Kitimat	Tahsis
Chetwynd	Kyuquot	Tatla Lake
Dawson Creek	Lillooet	Terrace
Dease Lake	MacKenzie	Tofino
Edgewood	Masset	Tumbler Ridge
Elk Valley	McBride	Valemount
Elkford	Nakusp	Vanderhoof
Fernie	New Denver	
Fort Nelson	Port Alice	

The parties will meet to discuss what principles might be developed for eligibility on this list and may make joint recommendations with respect to the modernization of this list (e.g. removing or adding certain communities) in advance of the next round of collective bargaining.

## **ARTICLE 55 – SEVERANCE ALLOWANCE**

### **55.01 Eligibility for Severance Allowance**

A regular employee leaving the employ of the Employer shall be entitled to receive severance allowance as calculated in Articles 55.02 and 55.03 providing that the employee falls into one of the following categories:

- (A) Employees with ten (10) years' service, who voluntarily leave the Employer's work force after their 55th birthday.
- (B) Employees with ten (10) years of service whose services are no longer required by the Employer (closure of Employer's operations, job redundancy, etc.), except employees dismissed for cause.
- (C) (1) Employees enrolled under the provisions of the *Pension (Municipal) Act* or *Pension (Public Service) Act*, as applicable, who are required to retire from the Employer's work force because of a medical disability as defined under the

provisions of the *Pension (Municipal) Act* or *Pension (Public Service) Act*, as applicable.

- (2) Employees who are not enrolled under the *Pension (Municipal) Act* or *Pension (Public Service) Act* who are required to retire from the Employer's work force because of a medical disability of a like nature to those defined under the provisions of the *Pension (Municipal) Act*; such medical disability to be determined by a board of medical practitioners established in a like manner to that provided for under the provisions of the *Pension (Municipal) Act*.
- (D) Employees with ten (10) years of service who die in service.
- (E) Eligibility for severance allowance is not dependent upon participation in, or contribution to, the Municipal Superannuation Plan.

### **55.02 Severance Allowance Entitlement**

An eligible employee, as defined in Article 55.01, shall be paid a severance allowance of one (1) week's pay for every two (2) years of service to a maximum of twenty (20) weeks' pay.

An eligible employee who dies in service shall have the severance allowance paid to their estate.

### **55.03 Calculation of Severance Allowance**

- (A) Proportionate payment shall be made to eligible employees for periods of service of less than two (2) years. The proportionate payment shall be calculated on the following basis:

$$\frac{\text{Hours paid* (excluding overtime)}}{\text{In the two year period x 1 week's pay}} \\ \underline{\hspace{10em}} \\ 1950 \times 2$$

\*\* In the calculation of severance allowance, hours worked up to the first pay period prior to September 30, 1993 will be based on 1957.5. Hours worked between the first pay period prior to September 30, 1993 and the first pay period prior to April 1, 2013 will be based on 1879.2 hours.

- (B) Years of service for severance allowance purposes for part-time employees shall be calculated on the following basis:

Total hours paid\* (excluding overtime)

1950

\* Includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) work days.

(Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

- (C) Periods of service cannot be used more than once for calculating severance allowance.

#### **55.04 Portability of Service for Severance Allowance Purposes**

A regular employee who voluntarily resigns and is later rehired by an Employer covered by this Collective Agreement within one (1) year, shall have portability of length of service for the purposes of the severance allowance provision.

#### **55.05 Service**

Service for the purpose of this Article means service with the Employer plus any service ported under Article 55.04.

### **ARTICLE 56 – PAYMENT OF WAGES**

#### **56.01 Wages**

Wages shall be paid each employee in accordance with Article 61 – Wage Schedule Classifications, and Article 62 – Wage Schedules.

#### **56.02 Retroactive Pay and Benefits**

All rates of pay and benefits of this Agreement shall be applied retroactively to their respective dates as provided in this Agreement. Former employees of the Employer who are entitled to pay and benefits described above shall receive them, providing they leave a forwarding address for this purpose.

#### **56.03 Pay Days**

Employees working the following shifts shall be paid by cheque or direct deposit no later than:

- (A) day shift – on the pay day;
- (B) afternoon shift – on the day immediately prior to the pay day;
- (C) night shift – coming off the shift the morning of the pay day.

When a pay day falls on an employee's scheduled day off, the Employer agrees to issue the employee's pay check on the last shift worked prior to the pay day, provided the cheque is available.

Where an Employer has implemented, or intends to implement, a system of direct payroll deposit, the Employer shall have the right to require all employees to participate in the pay direct system. The employee shall choose the financial institution in Canada to which they wish their pay to be deposited provided that the institution selected by the employee will accept a direct deposit and unreasonable administrative costs are not incurred.

Where an employee identifies a significant error in their pay, the Employer must provide a manual check at the employee's request.

#### **56.04 Statement of Wages**

An Employer shall, on every pay day, provide to each employee a statement of wages of their pay period stating:

- (A) in the case of an hourly paid employee, the hours worked by them;
- (B) the employee's wage rate and where the rate varies, the hours worked at each rate, plus an accumulated figure of hours worked;
- (C) the hours worked by the employee for which payment of wages is made at the overtime wage rate, and the overtime wage rate;
- (D) any qualification differential, premium, isolation allowance or other payment to which the employee is entitled;
- (E) the amount of each deduction from the earnings of the employee and the purpose of each deduction;
- (F) where an employee is paid other than by salary or by the hour, how the wages were calculated for the work for which payment is made;
- (G) the amount being received by the employee;
- (H) sick leave credits used within the pay period and accumulated balance;
- (I) special leave hours used within the pay period;

- (J) vacation hours taken within the pay period.

The statement shall be written except where an Employer opts to provide the statement of wages to employees through electronic means rather than through a paper copy. This information is subject to privacy legislation.

Where Employers provide such statements electronically, they will provide information to employees on how to access their information.

Employees who are away from the worksite for two (2) or more consecutive pay periods may request in writing, and will receive a paper statement of wages mailed to their home.

## **ARTICLE 57 – GENERAL CONDITIONS**

### **57.01 Transport Duty**

When an employee is required to transport a patient, the Employer shall canvass qualified employees in the department for a volunteer. In the event that no employee volunteers, the Employer may then assign an employee to perform the duty.

- (A) Transport services performed by the employee shall be considered as work performed while still in the employ of the Employer.
- (B) All terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in force and effect while the employee is on transport duty. Notwithstanding the foregoing:
  - (1) An employee shall receive their regular pay and where applicable, overtime and other premiums while the patient is in their care;
  - and
  - (2) An employee shall be paid their straight time rate of pay for all other hours provided that the employee returns to the place they normally work by the next available, suitable transport.
- (C) All accommodations, meals and related expenses shall be paid by the Employer.
- (D) Funds may be given to the employee if requested to cover such expenses prior to their leaving for transport duty.

- (E) No employee shall be required to travel in a vehicle which does not meet the Transport Canada Safety requirements.
- (F) Employees shall not be required to transport patients/residents/clients in their personal vehicles.
- (G) The parties agree to jointly develop guidelines regarding the safe transport of patients/residents/clients. The above will include guidelines related to risk and patient and nurse safety.

#### **57.02 Use of Personal Vehicle on Employer's Business**

- (A) Where the use of an employee's vehicle for Employer business is not normally required as part of their duties, the use of the employee's vehicle for Employer business is strictly voluntary.

Should use of such vehicle be required in the performance of their duties, excepting call-in or call-back, the Employer shall bear the responsibility of all extra insurance premiums which may arise from such usage.

During such usage, all the terms and conditions of this agreement shall apply including the call-back travel allowance of Article 29.06.

- (B) In Northern and isolated areas where employees are required to travel on the Employer's business, the Employer shall provide and maintain safety and survival equipment as agreed by the local Occupational Health and Safety Committee.
- (C) Employees who are required to use their own vehicles in the ordinary course of performing their work duties shall receive a mileage allowance for all business related mileage at the automobile allowance rates set by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Business related mileage as per (C) above shall not include the normal distance an employee drives between their home and their regular worksite, but shall include all other mileage included for business purposes. For clarity, if an employee proceeds directly to a business location other than their regular worksite, they may claim as business related mileage all kilometres travelled from that location. If the business location is further than their regular worksite, they will claim all kilometres travelled which exceed the distance between their home and their regular worksite.

### **57.03 Personal Property Damage**

- (A) Upon submission of reasonable proof the Employer shall repair or indemnify with respect to damage to the chattels of an employee while on duty caused by the actions of a patient, resident or client provided such personal property is an article of use or wear of a type suitable for use while on duty.
- (B) Where an employee's vehicle is damaged by a person in the care or custody of the Employer, or by any other person/ event where the employee is using their vehicle while working, the Employer shall reimburse the lesser of the actual vehicle damage repair costs, or the cost of any deductible portion of insurance coverage on that vehicle up to a maximum of \$500.00.

No reimbursement shall be paid in those cases where the damage was sustained as a result of the employee's actions.

### **57.04 Laundry**

Uniforms provided by the Employer to employees will be laundered by the Employer.

### **57.05 Registration**

- (A) To practice as a nurse, an employee must be authorized to do so under the provisions of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* and the respective Regulations. Such authorization must be in effect on or by the applicable annual registration date of the respective provincial regulatory body.
- (B) The Employer will reimburse all nurses for the cost of the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) registration fee. This will not be prorated based on the eligible nurses' FTE.
- (C) At the Employer's request, a nurse is required to confirm their authorization to practice by presentation of their registration card, license, permit or other proof acceptable to the Employer.

### **57.06 Business Allowance**

Effective April 1, 2023, all regular employees employed in community-based services will receive one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per month as a business allowance.

For the purposes of this article, community-based services means a program which provides other than twenty-four (24) hours per day in-patient or residential care services and will include such services as home support, home health, long-term care case management, population and public health, primary care, and community mental health.

Community-based services does not include clinic type services which are aligned with acute care services such as hospital outpatient clinics.

## **ARTICLE 58 – AMENDMENTS**

If either the Association or the Employer wishes to propose amendments to this Agreement, the party proposing such amendments shall notify the other party in writing of this intent within the last four (4) months prior to the expiry date of the Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 59 – PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE**

*Note: This language is not operational until ratification of the next Collective Agreement. See Appendix KK Memorandum of Agreement re Professional Responsibility Process*

In the interest of safe patient/client/resident care and to reflect a strengthened professional practice commitment, the parties agree to a refreshed approach related to quality nursing practice. This approach will be built on trust and common goals and will enable nurses and the Employer to engage in meaningful conversation around opportunities for improvement.

In order to facilitate this collaborative relationship, the Union and the Employer agree to deliver Professional Responsibility Form (“PRF”) education to participants as determined by the parties. This education will be based on a mutually agreed curriculum and co-facilitated by the Employer and the Union.

The following problem-solving process will address nursing practice conditions and the safety of patient/resident/clients and nurses.

The parties agree that if a PRF is submitted that focuses on a staffing issue, it will be referred to the Nurse Staffing Secretariat.

Communication between the Employer and the nurse(s) with respect to the status of their issue will occur regardless of the process followed.



In the interest of achieving collaborative solutions in a timely and orderly fashion, the parties will make every effort to consolidate related PRFs.

**59.01** Within seventy-two (72) hours of identifying a concern, the nurse(s) will discuss the matter with their excluded manager, or excluded designate, with the objective of resolving the concern. This discussion must include specific details as it pertains to practice. The preferred method for this discussion is face to face, but may also take place via other means (e.g. email or telephone) when necessary. The nurse(s) may be accompanied/supported by an experienced PRF representative or a steward. When the concern is not immediately resolved, the excluded manager or excluded designate will provide the nurse(s) with a written response of actions to be taken within seven (7) days of the discussion.

**59.02** If the matter is not resolved to the nurse(s)' satisfaction within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written response, the nurse(s) may submit the PRF to the Professional Responsibility Committee ("PRC"). The nurse(s) retains the original and forwards copies to their excluded manager or excluded designate and the Union steward, who will ensure that the standing members of the PRC receive copies.

**59.03** A PRC shall be established with each Employer as defined in Article 1.02. The parties will operate in accordance with the mutually agreed to Terms of Reference and Guiding Principles.

Composition of the PRC:

(A) Standing Members:

- (1) one member appointed by the NBA
- (2) one member appointed by the Employer

(B) Ad Hoc Members:

- (1) the nurse(s) with the concern
- (2) a PRF representative or a Union steward
- (3) the immediate supervisor
- (4) the excluded manager or excluded designate of the unit

**59.04** The Standing Members of the PRC shall request and be given access to documents and data necessary to assist in satisfactory resolution of the nurse(s)' concerns.

**59.05** A meeting of the PRC shall be held within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the PRF. The PRC will have thirty (30) days following the meeting to attempt to resolve the identified concern(s) and to submit a final written report to the nurse(s) and the Union identifying the actions to be taken and the timeline for implementation. In the event that not all Ad Hoc Members can attend the meeting, the Standing Members will determine if the meeting can proceed with only the available members, making all reasonable efforts to ensure at least one PRF author is present.

All efforts will be made to schedule member(s)' attendance at the PRC/ Senior Review Committee ("SRC") on a scheduled shift to ensure that a member does not lose pay to attend and in the event that this cannot be done, the member will be compensated at straight time.

Where multiple employees are a party to the PRF(s), the Standing Members of the PRC/SRC will limit the number of attendees to a reasonable level. The authors will determine who will attend and speak on their behalf.

Action items that are jointly agreed to by the PRC shall be communicated in writing to the PRF author(s), their excluded manager or excluded designate and any other persons whose involvement is required to implement the action items. The PRC will also identify a time-frame for reviewing the action items, which may vary depending on their nature.

**59.06 Applicable to Health Authorities, Providence Health Care Society and Bishop of Victoria (St. Joseph's General Hospital)**

- (a) A Senior Review Committee ("SRC") shall be established at each Health Authority/Providence Health Care consisting of the Health Authority's/Providence Health Care's Chief Operating Officer (or functional equivalent) or the Chief Nursing Officer (or functional equivalent), and one senior representative appointed by the Union.
- (b) If the concern(s) is not resolved at the PRC level or the identified actions are not taken, the Union may refer the matter to the SRC within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the PRC final written report or of the failure to implement the report. All referrals to the SRC will be accompanied by correspondence that explains the Union's rationale for referral.

- (c) The SRC will review the matter, including having access to data and documents as necessary, and will issue recommendations in a written report to the Union and the respective Health Authority/Providence Health Care/Bishop of Victory (St. Joseph's General Hospital) Chief Executive Officers within sixty (60) days of referral.
- (d) Prior to any referral to the Provincial Nursing Secretariat ("PNS"), either party shall notify the CEO of their intent to make a referral. Within fourteen (14) days of receiving the notification the CEO will acknowledge receipt and communicate any resolve to the parties. Where the matter is resolved at this level, it shall not be referred to the PNS.
- (e) Recommendations that are unanimous will be binding and will be implemented by the parties. The SRC will specify a timeframe for reviewing binding recommendations to ensure that they are implemented as intended. If it is determined during this review that progress is not being made, either party may refer the binding recommendations to the PNS.
- (f) Where the SRC is unable to make unanimous recommendations, a written report outlining the SRC's findings will be issued to the Union and the Health Authority/ Providence Health Care. At that point, either party may refer the matter to the PNS.

**59.07 Applicable to Affiliate Employers other than Providence Health Care Society and Bishop of Victoria (St. Joseph's General Hospital)**

- (a) If the concern(s) is not resolved to the Union's satisfaction, it may refer the matter to the Board of Directors (or functional equivalent) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the PRC final written report. The Union may make a written submission and/or a verbal presentation. All parties shall receive copies of any submission or documentation that may be provided to the Board.
- (b) The Board of Directors (or functional equivalent) will review the submission and/or hear the verbal presentation at their next regularly scheduled board meeting and shall respond in writing to the Union within fourteen (14) calendar days. Copies of the response shall be forwarded to the Union, the Administrator and the PRC members.

- (c) Where the Board of Directors (or functional equivalent) has not resolved the issue to the Union's satisfaction, either party may refer the matter to the contract holder. Within fourteen (14) days of receiving the referral, the contract holder will acknowledge receipt and communicate any resolve to the parties. Where the matter is not resolved at this level, either party may refer the matter to the PNS.

## **ARTICLE 60 – MEDICAL, EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL COVERAGE, LONG-TERM DISABILITY AND GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**

### **60.01 Medical Coverage**

- (A) Regular employees and their eligible dependents (including common-law spouses) shall be covered by the Medical Services Plan of B.C. or any other plan mutually acceptable to the Union and the Employer. The Employer shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the premium.
- (B) A regular employee may cover persons other than dependents if the plan carrier agrees and if the employee pays the full premium for them through payroll deductions.
- (C) Membership in the medical plan is a condition of employment for regular employees who are not members or dependents of members of another approved medical plan.
- (D) The medical plan becomes effective on the first of the calendar month following date of hire.

### **60.02 Extended Health Care Coverage**

Effective November 1, 2012, the Extended Health Care Plan will include Pharmacare tie-in with the addition of coverage for Prometrium.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Extended Health Care Plan will move to Blue Rx coverage.

- (A) The Employer shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the monthly premiums for extended health care coverage for regular employees and their eligible dependents (including common-law spouses) under the Pacific Blue Cross Plan, or any other plan mutually acceptable to the Union and the Employer (See also Appendix "S"). The plan benefits shall be expanded to include:

- (1) Expenses incurred for the purchase and maintenance of a hearing aid up to a maximum of one thousand (\$1000) per ear per person in each five (5) year period; and
  - (2) Vision care coverage providing three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350) every twenty-four (24) months per eligible employee or eligible dependent. Note 1: No coinsurance payment will be applied on vision claims. Note 2: This change is effective June 1, 2010.
  - (3) The maximum lifetime amount payable per eligible employee or eligible dependent shall be unlimited.
- (B) A regular employee may cover persons other than dependents if the plan carrier agrees and if the employee pays the full premium for them through payroll deductions.
- (C) Membership in the extended health care plan is a condition of employment for regular employees who are not members or dependents of members of another approved extended health care plan.
- (D) The extended health care plan becomes effective on the first of the calendar month following thirty (30) days from the date of hire.

### **60.03 Dental Coverage**

- (A) (1) The Employer shall pay all of the monthly premium for a dental plan covering one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the basic plan "A" and sixty percent (60%) of the cost of the extended plan "B" and sixty percent (60%) of the cost of the extended plan "C" (Orthodontic Plan). The dental plan shall cover regular employees and their eligible dependents (including common-law spouses) under the Pacific Blue Cross Plan, or any other plan mutually acceptable to the Union and the Employer (See also Appendix "S").
- (2) A regular employee is eligible for orthodontic services under Plan C after twelve (12) months participation in the plan. Orthodontic services are subject to a lifetime maximum payment of \$2,750 per patient with no runoffs for claims after termination of employment.

- (B) A regular employee may cover persons other than dependents if the plan carrier agrees and if the employee pays the full premium for them through payroll deductions.
- (C) Membership in the dental plan is only available to, and is a condition of employment for, regular employees provided they are not the primary member of another dental plan. Note: This change is effective June 1, 2010.
- (D) Coverage under the dental plan becomes effective on the first of the calendar month following thirty (30) days from the date of hire.

#### **60.04 Dependents**

An eligible dependent for the purposes of Articles 46.01, 46.02 and 46.03 is one who is acceptable to the plans, but does not include those individuals referred to in parts (B) of the above specified Articles.

#### **60.05 Long-Term Disability Insurance Plan**

The Employer shall provide a mutually acceptable long-term disability insurance plan, a copy of which shall appear in Appendix "A" section B – Long-Term Disability Insurance Plan.

The plan shall provide post-probationary regular employees with salary continuation as per Appendix "A" section B until age sixty-five (65) in the event of a disability.

The cost of the plan shall be borne by the Employer.

#### **60.06 Group Life Insurance Plan**

##### **(A) Eligibility**

Regular full-time and regular part-time employees who are on staff on January 1, 1981 or who join the staff following this date shall, upon completion of the three (3) month probationary period, become members of the Group Life Insurance Plan as a condition of employment.

##### **(B) Benefits**

- (1) The plan shall provide basic life insurance in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and standard twenty-four (24) hour accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Coverage shall continue until termination of

employment. Upon termination of employment (including retirement), coverage shall continue without premium payment for a period of thirty-one (31) days during which time the conversion privilege may be exercised; that is, the individual covered may convert all or part of their group life insurance to any whole life, endowment or term life policy normally issued by the insurer and at the insurer's standard rates at the time, without medical evidence.

**(C) Premiums**

The Employer shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the premium for the Group Life Insurance Plan.

**ARTICLE 61 – EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATING DATES**

- (A) This Agreement shall be effective from April 1, 2022 and shall remain in force and be binding upon the parties until March 31, 2025 and thereafter until a new Agreement has been consummated.

Employers newly certified during the term of this Agreement and who are added to the Appendix of the Consolidated certification with the Union shall negotiate the application of the terms of this Agreement with effective dates as agreed upon between the parties.

- (B) The operation of Subsection 2 of Section 50 of the Labour Relations Code of British Columbia (or any succeeding Acts) is specifically excluded from this Agreement.
- (C) All terms of this Agreement shall come into effect at 0001 hours on the dates stipulated within the Agreement.

**ARTICLE 62 – WAGE SCHEDULE CLASSIFICATIONS**

Nursing jobs have been categorized into four job groups and six classification levels. The job groups are:

- Community Health Activities (CH)
- Direct Patient/Client/Resident Care Activities (DC)
- Educational Activities (ED)
- Program and Service Activities (PS)

The classification levels are LPN (Levels 1\* and 2) and RN/RPN (Levels 3\*\*, 4, 5, 6).

Classification	Job Profile			
	CH	DC	ED	PS
<i>Level 1 (LPN)*</i>	LPN1	LPN1		
<i>Level 2 (LPN)</i>	LPN 2	LPN2	LPN2	
<i>Level 3 (RN/RPN)**</i>	CH1	DC1		PS1
<i>Level 4 (RN/RPN)</i>	CH2A/CH2B	DC2A/DC2B	ED2	PS2
<i>Level 5 (RN/RPN)</i>	CH3	DC3	ED3	PS3
<i>Level 6 (RN/RPN)</i>	CH4A/CH4B	DC4	ED4	

In the event that an employee moves from a Licensed Practical Nurse Position to a Registered Nurse or Registered Psychiatric Nurse Position, they shall be placed at the lowest step in the new increment structure that shall give them a monthly wage increase. Moving from a Licensed Practical Nurse Position to a Registered Nurse or Registered Psychiatric Nurse Position shall not be considered to be a promotion and shall not trigger the requirements of Article 18.06.

\* To include LPN Orthopaedic Technologists (previously FBA SA25)

\*\* To include Licensed Graduate Nurses, which are defined by the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia as “nurses granted LGN registration in B.C. prior to Oct. 1, 1990. An LGN registrant may perform or provide services as if they are a registered nurse registrant.”

Effective April 1, 2016, LPNs that receive the operating room (previously FBA SA29) wage rate will be grandparented. On a go-forward basis, a qualification differential will be equally applied to all nurses in accordance with Article 53.01.

*The merging of the pre-existing RN/RPN and LPN classification systems in the above classification system shall not result in any other changes to the classification or wage rate of RNs, RPNs or LPNs.*



## ARTICLE 63 – WAGE SCHEDULES

### A.1 – General Wage Increases

Wage rates for all employees covered by the HEABC-NBA Provincial Collective Agreement who are on the Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5 or Level 6 wages schedules will increase after the following dates and at the indicated rates:

#### Year 1

- April 1, 2022: Increase rates of pay by an average of 3.82%.
  - o The average increase of 3.82% consists of a \$0.25 per hour and then a 3.24% general wage increase (GWI) to be applied across all increment steps.

#### Year 2

- April 1, 2023: Increase rates of pay by 5.5%.
- An additional GWI of up to 1.25% in accordance with a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

#### Year 3:

- April 1, 2024: Increase rates of pay by 2%.
- An additional GWI of up to 1% in accordance with a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Note: Average increase information is an approximation based on data currently available.

### A.2 – Forensic Premium

Forensic employees will be placed on the appropriate wage schedule and shall be paid an additional hourly premium equal to:

1. Forensic Nurse A (Maximum, Multi-level Security): 4% of the hourly rate specified for a Nurse Level 3, Eighth Year; and
2. Forensic Nurse B (Minimum, Medium Security, and Forensic Community Liaison Nurses (FCLNs)): 2% of the hourly rate specified for a Nurse Level 3, Fourth Year.

## A.3 – General Wage Schedules

Effective April 1, 2022

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year
Level 1	4854	4993	5100	5179	5259	5338	5417	5496	5576
(LPN)	29.87	30.73	31.38	31.87	32.36	32.85	33.34	33.82	34.31
Level 2	5054	5199	5312	5395	5478	5560	5643	5725	5808
(LPN)	31.10	31.99	32.69	33.20	33.71	34.22	34.73	35.23	35.74
Level 3	6121	6355	6589	6822	7057	7291	7525	7747	8024
(RN/RPN)*	37.67	39.11	40.55	41.98	43.43	44.87	46.31	47.67	49.38
Level 4	7271	7401	7562	7753	7985	8172	8407	8634	8903
(RN/RPN)	44.74	45.54	46.54	47.71	49.14	50.29	51.74	53.13	54.79
Level 5	7742	7796	7945	8150	8395	8591	8826	9048	9323
(RN/RPN)	47.64	47.98	48.89	50.15	51.66	52.87	54.31	55.68	57.37
Level 6	8056	8122	8270	8477	8731	8937	9179	9399	9668
(RN/RPN)	49.58	49.98	50.89	52.17	53.73	55.00	56.49	57.84	59.50

*\*Includes Licensed Graduate nurses, which are defined by the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia as "nurses granted LGN registration in B.C. prior to Oct. 1, 1990. An LGN registrant may perform or provide services as they are a registered nurse registrant."*

**Effective April 1, 2023**

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 1 (LPN)</b>	5,182.00	5,330.00	5,444.00	5,598.13	5,752.50	5,906.88	6,061.25	6,215.63	6,370.00	6,524.38
	31.89	32.80	33.50	34.45	35.40	36.35	37.30	38.25	39.20	40.15
<b>Recognition Pay</b>										
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	5,263.38	5,411.25	5,525.00	5,679.38	5,833.75	5,988.13	6,142.50	6,296.88	6,451.25	6,605.63
	32.39	33.30	34.00	34.95	35.90	36.85	37.80	38.75	39.70	40.65
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	5,385.25	5,533.13	5,646.88	5,801.25	5,955.63	6,110.00	6,264.38	6,418.75	6,573.13	6,727.50
	33.14	34.05	34.75	35.70	36.65	37.60	38.55	39.50	40.45	41.40
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	5,547.75	5,695.63	5,809.38	5,963.75	6,118.13	6,272.50	6,426.88	6,581.25	6,735.63	6,890.00
	34.14	35.05	35.75	36.70	37.65	38.60	39.55	40.50	41.45	42.40
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	5,750.88	5,898.75	6,012.50	6,166.88	6,321.25	6,475.63	6,630.00	6,784.38	6,938.75	7,093.13
	35.39	36.30	37.00	37.95	38.90	39.85	40.80	41.75	42.70	43.65

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 2 (LPN)</b>	5,395.00	5,550.00	5,671.00	5,825.63	5,980.00	6,134.38	6,288.75	6,443.13	6,597.50	6,751.88
	33.20	34.15	34.90	35.85	36.80	37.75	38.70	39.65	40.60	41.55
<b>Recognition Pay</b>										
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	5,476.25	5,630.63	5,752.50	5,906.88	6,061.25	6,215.63	6,370.00	6,524.38	6,678.75	6,833.13
	33.70	34.65	35.40	36.35	37.30	38.25	39.20	40.15	41.10	42.05
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	5,598.13	5,752.50	5,874.38	6,028.75	6,183.13	6,337.50	6,491.88	6,646.25	6,800.63	6,955.00
	34.45	35.40	36.15	37.10	38.05	39.00	39.95	40.90	41.85	42.80
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	5,760.63	5,915.00	6,036.88	6,191.25	6,345.63	6,500.00	6,654.38	6,808.75	6,963.13	7,117.50
	35.45	36.40	37.15	38.10	39.05	40.00	40.95	41.90	42.85	43.80
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	5,963.75	6,118.13	6,240.00	6,394.38	6,548.75	6,703.13	6,857.50	7,011.88	7,166.25	7,320.63
	36.70	37.65	38.40	39.35	40.30	41.25	42.20	43.15	44.10	45.05

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 3 (RN/RPN)</b>	6,534.00 40.21	6,784.00 41.75	7,034.00 43.29	7,289.75 44.86	7,544.88 46.43	7,800.00 48.00	8,055.13 49.57	8,310.25 51.14	8,565.38 52.71	8,820.50 54.28
<b>Recognition Pay</b>										
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	6,615.38 40.71	6,865.63 42.25	7,115.88 43.79	7,371.00 45.36	7,626.13 46.93	7,881.25 48.50	8,136.38 50.07	8,391.50 51.64	8,646.63 53.21	8,901.75 54.78
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	6,737.25 41.46	6,987.50 43.00	7,237.75 44.54	7,492.88 46.11	7,748.00 47.68	8,003.13 49.25	8,258.25 50.82	8,513.38 52.39	8,768.50 53.96	9,023.63 55.53
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	6,899.75 42.46	7,150.00 44.00	7,400.25 45.54	7,655.38 47.11	7,910.50 48.68	8,165.63 50.25	8,420.75 51.82	8,675.88 53.39	8,931.00 54.96	9,186.13 56.53
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	7,102.88 43.71	7,353.13 45.25	7,603.38 46.79	7,858.50 48.36	8,113.63 49.93	8,368.75 51.50	8,623.88 53.07	8,879.00 54.64	9,134.13 56.21	9,389.25 57.78

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 4 (RN/RPN)</b>	7,762.00	8,006.38	8,250.13	8,502.00	8,753.88	9,005.75	9,257.63	9,509.50	9,761.38	10,013.25
	47.77	49.27	50.77	52.32	53.87	55.42	56.97	58.52	60.07	61.62
<b>Recognition Pay</b>										
	7,843.88	8,087.63	8,331.38	8,583.25	8,835.13	9,087.00	9,338.88	9,590.75	9,842.63	10,094.50
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	48.27	49.77	51.27	52.82	54.37	55.92	57.47	59.02	60.57	62.12
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	7,965.75	8,209.50	8,453.25	8,705.13	8,957.00	9,208.88	9,460.75	9,712.63	9,964.50	10,216.38
	49.02	50.52	52.02	53.57	55.12	56.67	58.22	59.77	61.32	62.87
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	8,128.25	8,372.00	8,615.75	8,867.63	9,119.50	9,371.38	9,623.25	9,875.13	10,127.00	10,378.88
	50.02	51.52	53.02	54.57	56.12	57.67	59.22	60.77	62.32	63.87
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	8,331.38	8,575.13	8,818.88	9,070.75	9,322.63	9,574.50	9,826.38	10,078.25	10,330.13	10,582.00
	51.27	52.77	54.27	55.82	57.37	58.92	60.47	62.02	63.57	65.12

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 5 (RN/RPN)</b>	8,265.00	8,508.50	8,752.25	9,004.13	9,256.00	9,507.88	9,759.75	10,011.63	10,263.50	10,515.38
	50.86	52.36	53.86	55.41	56.96	58.51	60.06	61.61	63.16	64.71
<b>Recognition Pay</b>										
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	8,346.00	8,589.75	8,833.50	9,085.38	9,337.25	9,589.13	9,841.00	10,092.88	10,344.75	10,596.63
	51.36	52.86	54.36	55.91	57.46	59.01	60.56	62.11	63.66	65.21
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	8,467.88	8,711.63	8,955.38	9,207.25	9,459.13	9,711.00	9,962.88	10,214.75	10,466.63	10,718.50
	52.11	53.61	55.11	56.66	58.21	59.76	61.31	62.86	64.41	65.96
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	8,630.38	8,874.13	9,117.88	9,369.75	9,621.63	9,873.50	10,125.38	10,377.25	10,629.13	10,881.00
	53.11	54.61	56.11	57.66	59.21	60.76	62.31	63.86	65.41	66.96
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	8,833.50	9,077.25	9,321.00	9,572.88	9,824.75	10,076.63	10,328.50	10,580.38	10,832.25	11,084.13
	54.36	55.86	57.36	58.91	60.46	62.01	63.56	65.11	66.66	68.21

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year	Tenth Year
<b>Level 6 (RN/RPN)</b>	8,600.00	8,843.25	9,087.00	9,338.88	9,590.75	9,842.63	10,094.50	10,346.38	10,598.25	10,850.13
	52.92	54.42	55.92	57.47	59.02	60.57	62.12	63.67	65.22	66.77
<b>Recognition Pay</b> 15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	8,680.75	8,924.50	9,168.25	9,420.13	9,672.00	9,923.88	10,175.75	10,427.63	10,679.50	10,931.38
	53.42	54.92	56.42	57.97	59.52	61.07	62.62	64.17	65.72	67.27
20 Years/ 39,000 Hours	8,802.63	9,046.38	9,290.13	9,542.00	9,793.88	10,045.75	10,297.63	10,549.50	10,801.38	11,053.25
	54.17	55.67	57.17	58.72	60.27	61.82	63.37	64.92	66.47	68.02
25 Years/ 48,750 Hours	8,965.13	9,208.88	9,452.63	9,704.50	9,956.38	10,208.25	10,460.13	10,712.00	10,963.88	11,215.75
	55.17	56.67	58.17	59.72	61.27	62.82	64.37	65.92	67.47	69.02
30 Years/ 58,500 Hours	9,168.25	9,412.00	9,655.75	9,907.63	10,159.50	10,411.38	10,663.25	10,915.13	11,167.00	11,418.88
	56.42	57.92	59.42	60.97	62.52	64.07	65.62	67.17	68.72	70.27

\*Includes Licensed Graduate nurses, which are defined by the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia as "nurses granted LGN registration in B.C. prior to Oct. 1, 1990. An LGN registrant may perform or provide services as they are a registered nurse registrant."



### Effective April 1, 2024

2024 Wage Grids will be confirmed at a later date in consideration of any COLA adjustments, if applicable (please refer to Article 63 – Wage Schedules (A.1 General Wage Schedules – Year 3)) and MOA Re: Cost of Living Adjustment.

### A.4 – Special Wage Rate Schedules for Pine Free Clinic Nurses

#### Effective April 1, 2022

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year	Sixth Year	Seventh Year	Eighth Year	Ninth Year
Monthly Rate	6479	6733	6985	7234	7490	7732	7973	8190	8464
Hourly Rate	39.87	41.43	42.98	44.52	46.09	47.58	49.06	50.40	52.09

#### Effective April 1, 2023

	Increment First Year	Increment Second Year	Increment Third Year	Increment Fourth Year	Increment Fifth Year	Increment Sixth Year	Increment Seventh Year	Increment Eighth Year	Increment Ninth Year	Increment Tenth Year
Monthly Rate	6,916.00	7,187.00	7,456.00	7,710.63	7,965.75	8,220.88	8,476.00	8,731.13	8,986.25	9,241.38
Hourly Rate	42.56	44.23	45.88	47.45	49.02	50.59	52.16	53.73	55.30	56.87
<b>Recognition Pay</b>	6,997.25	7,268.63	7,536.75	7,791.88	8,047.00	8,302.13	8,557.25	8,812.38	9,067.50	9,322.63
15 Years/ 29,250 Hours	43.06	44.73	46.38	47.95	49.52	51.09	52.66	54.23	55.80	57.37
20 Years/ 39,000 Years	7,119.13	7,390.50	7,658.63	7,913.75	8,168.88	8,424.00	8,679.13	8,934.25	9,189.38	9,444.50
	43.81	45.48	47.13	48.70	50.27	51.84	53.41	54.98	56.55	58.12

25 Years/	7,281.63	7,553.00	7,821.13	8,076.25	8,331.38	8,586.50	8,841.63	9,096.75	9,351.88	9,607.00
48,750 Hours	44.81	46.48	48.13	49.70	51.27	52.84	54.41	55.98	57.55	59.12
30 Years/	7,484.75	7,756.13	8,024.25	8,279.38	8,534.50	8,789.63	9,044.75	9,299.88	9,555.00	9,810.13
58,500 Hours	46.06	47.73	49.38	50.95	52.52	54.09	55.66	57.23	58.80	60.37

### **Effective April 1, 2024**

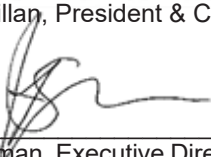
2024 Wage Grids will be confirmed at a later date in consideration of any COLA adjustments, if applicable (please refer to Article 63 and MOA Re: Cost of Living Adjustment – Wage Schedules (A.1 – General Wage Increases – Year 3) and MOA Re: Cost of Living Adjustment).

**SIGNATURES OF THE PARTIES**

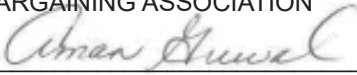
Signed on behalf of


**HEALTH EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Per:   
Michael McMillan, President & Chief Executive Officer

Per:   
James Suderman, Executive Director, Negotiations and Lead Spokesperson, HEABC

**NURSES' BARGAINING ASSOCIATION**

Per:   
Aman Grewal, President, BCNU

Per:   
Jim Gould, Interim CEO, BCNU, and Chief Negotiator, NBA

Dated this 27th day of April, 2023.

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**Between:**

**Nurses' Bargaining Association**

**And:**

**Health Employers Association of British Columbia on  
Behalf of the Worksites with Memoranda**

**Re: Extended Work Day/Compressed Work Week**

### **Preamble**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement is to revise and/or clarify certain terms and conditions of the Provincial Collective Agreement, so as to provide for the introduction or continuance of an extended work day/compressed work week.

This Memorandum of Agreement applies to employees in work-sites with Extended Hours Memoranda.

It is understood and agreed that:

- (A) With the exception of the specific revisions set forth in this Memorandum, all other terms and conditions of the Provincial Collective Agreement will apply.
- (B) As a general principle and unless otherwise revised in this Memorandum, the Employer will not incur any additional costs which would exceed the costs required to provide and maintain the regular work day/work week as set forth in the Provincial Collective Agreement.
- (C) As a general principle and unless otherwise revised in this Memorandum, the employees will neither gain nor lose any benefit(s) presently contained within the Provincial Collective Agreement.
- (D) For the purposes of this Memorandum and where revised, "days" have been converted into working hours, so that one (1) day shall equal seven point five (7.5) paid hours. For example, three (3) days compassionate leave is converted to  $3 \times 7.5 = 22.5$  working hours.

- (E) Any change deemed necessary in this Memorandum may be made by mutual agreement between the parties at any time during the life of this Memorandum.

## **Revisions to the Provincial Collective Agreement**

### **ARTICLE 1.02 – DEFINITIONS**

- Shift** means the normal consecutive working hours scheduled for each employee (regular full-time, regular part-time or casual) which occur in any twenty-four (24) hour period. In each twenty-four (24) hour period there will normally be two (2) shifts, namely, day shift and night shift.
- Day Shift** means a shift in which the major portion occurs between 0700 hours and 1900 hours.
- Night Shift** means a shift in which the major portion occurs between 1900 hours and 0700 hours.

### **ARTICLE 11 – DEFINITION OF EMPLOYEE STATUS AND BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT**

#### **11.03 Regular Part-Time Employees and**

#### **11.04 Casual Employees**

It is understood and agreed that any of the above mentioned employees who agree to work the extended work day/compressed work week shall be bound by the terms and conditions of this Memorandum.

Any regular part-time employee(s) or casual employee(s) working in an area where the extended work day/compressed work week is in effect, and who do not agree to work same, shall be bound by the terms and conditions of the Provincial Collective Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 13.03 – SENIORITY – MAINTAINED AND ACCUMULATED**

Seniority shall be maintained and accumulated under the following conditions:

- (E) absence due to lay-offs, for the first one hundred fifty (150) hours;
- (F) absence due to a general unpaid leave of absence, for the first one hundred fifty (150) hours.

For time periods in excess of those expressed above, seniority shall be maintained but not accumulated.

## **ARTICLE 17 – VACANCY POSTINGS**

### **17.02(A) Temporary Appointments**

The Employer may make a temporary appointment, without posting, to a vacant position, provided such position is one in which the former incumbent has terminated employment with the Employer. The temporary appointment shall not exceed two hundred twenty-five (225) working hours, unless the Union and the Employer mutually agree to extend this time limit.

## **ARTICLE 19 – LAY-OFF AND RECALL**

### **19.02 Advance Notice**

Regular employees who are laid-off by the Employer and who have been regularly employed by the Employer for the periods specified below, shall receive notice or pay in lieu as follows:

#### **(A) Regular Full-Time Employees**

- (1) Less than five (5) years' service – twenty-eight (28) calendar days' notice or regular pay for one hundred fifty (150) working hours.
- (2) Minimum of five (5) years' but less than ten (10) years' service – forty (40) calendar days' notice or regular pay for two hundred twenty five (225) working hours.
- (3) More than ten (10) years' service – sixty (60) calendar days' notice or regular pay for three hundred (300) working hours.

#### **(B) Regular Part-Time Employees**

Regular part-time employees require the same notice, however, pay in lieu of notice shall be calculated as follows:

hours paid per month \*(excluding overtime)  
x (working hours)\*\* in lieu of notice

---

162.5

\* Includes leave without pay up to twenty (20) work days.  
(Reference Article 37 Leave – General.)

\*\* Entitlement as in (A) (1), (2) or (3).

### **19.03 Benefits Continue**

(A) Employees with one (1) or more years of service who are laid-off shall accrue benefits for one hundred fifty (150) working hours, and shall have their benefits maintained for the balance of a one (1) year period of time.

(Reference Article 37 – Leave – General.)

(B) Employees with less than one (1) year of service but more than three (3) months of service who are laid-off shall not accrue benefits for one hundred fifty (150) working hours but shall have their benefits maintained for a one (1) year period of time.

(C) Probationary employees who are laid-off shall not accrue benefits for one hundred fifty (150) working hours but shall have their benefits maintained for three (3) months.

(D) For the first one hundred fifty (150) working hours of lay-off as expressed in (A) above, the Employer shall continue to pay all premiums under the Medical Plan, Extended Health Care Plan, Dental Plan, Long-Term Disability Plan, and Group Life Insurance Plan. For the balance of a one (1) year period, or the time periods expressed in (B) and (C) above, employees who remain laid-off may continue to be insured under the above named plans upon payment of the appropriate premium to their Employer at such times as may be required pursuant to the said plan(s).

## **ARTICLE 25 – WORK SCHEDULES**

### **25.05 Requirements of Work Schedule**

(A) The Employer and the Union agree to waive that portion of Article 25.05(E) reading:

Each regular employee shall be scheduled off-duty an average of not less than one (1) weekend in every three (3) weekends in each nine (9) week period.

- (B) Nursing Staff Work Schedules may take the form of either a two-shift or single shift rotation.
- (C) A regular employee shall not be scheduled to work more than four (4) consecutive shifts unless agreed to between the parties.

For the purposes of this article, (A) and (C) refer to schedules with shifts greater than eight (8) hours in length.

## **ARTICLE 26 – HOURS OF WORK, MEAL PERIOD, REST PERIODS**

It is understood and agreed that the hours of work as set out hereunder are specifically revised to conform to the requirements of the extended work day/compressed work week.

### **26.01 Hours of Work**

There shall be (as noted in the individual worksite's Memoranda of Understanding) work hours per day and an average of not more than thirty-seven point five (37.5) work hours per week over the period of weeks in the rotation. The weekly hours of work will be computed as follows:

$$\frac{\text{The number of work hours per day (excluding overtime)} \times \text{The number of work days work schedule}}{\text{Number of weeks in the work schedule}}$$

The daily full shift hours and weekly full shift hours shall be exclusive of meal periods.

### **26.03 Meal Period**

- (A) Two (2) meal periods of a continuous one-half (0.5) hour each will be provided during each employee's shift of ten (10) hours or more.
- (B) When an employee is designated either expressly or implicitly to be available for work during a meal period; and
  - (1) The employee is scheduled to work ten (10) hours or



more and receives two (2) meal periods (of thirty (30) minutes each, exclusive of the shift hours), then the employee shall receive regular rates of pay for the total time. (Example 11 hours + 60 minutes = 12 hours regular pay.)

- (2) The employee is scheduled to work ten (10) hours or more and does not receive the two (2) meal periods, exclusive of the shift hours, then the employee shall receive regular pay for the shift worked plus sixty (60) minutes pay at time and one-half (1.5) the regular pay.

#### **26.04 Rest Periods**

Employees working a full shift of ten (10) hours or more shall receive three (3) rest periods distributed evenly throughout the shift. Employees working less than ten (10) hours shall receive one (1) rest period for each four (4) hours of work.

### **ARTICLE 27 – OVERTIME**

#### **27.01 Definition**

Overtime means authorized services performed by an employee in excess of the normal daily full shift hours or weekly full shift hours as set out in Article 26.01 of this Memorandum.

#### **27.03 Employee's Right to Decline Overtime**

- (B) Work On A Scheduled Day Off

A regular full-time employee may be requested by the Employer to work on only one (1) of their scheduled days off per week. The decision to work the scheduled day off remains with the employee.

#### **27.04 Application**

- (A) The maximum amount in an employee's overtime bank shall be one hundred and fifty (150) straight-time hours.

#### **27.05 Overtime Pay Calculation**

- (A) Pursuant to Article 26.01 of this Memorandum, overtime at the rate of time and one-half (1.5) will be paid on the following basis;

- (1) for the first two (2) hours in excess of the daily full shift hours;
  - (2) for the first seven point five (7.5) hours in excess of the thirty-seven point five (37.5) hours in one (1) week.
- (B) Pursuant to Article 26.01 of this Memorandum, overtime at the rate of double time will be paid on the following basis:
- (1) for all hours in excess of those worked in A(1) above;
  - (2) for all hours in excess of forty-five (45) hours per week;
  - (3) for all hours worked on a regular full-time employee's scheduled day off, and for regular part-time employees for all hours worked on additional shift(s) to their regular schedule resulting in the part-time employee working:
    - (a)
      - (i) in excess of four (4) consecutive extended shifts where the shift length is greater than eight (8) hours.
      - (ii) in excess of six (6) consecutive shifts where the shift length is between seven point five (7.5) and eight (8) hours.
      - (iii) in excess of five (5) consecutive shifts where three (3) or more of the five (5) are greater than eight (8) hours in length.
      - (iv) in excess of six (6) consecutive shifts where four (4) or more of the six (6) are between seven point five (7.5) and eight (8) hours in length.
    - (b) more than two hundred twenty-five (225) straight time hours over the course of three consecutive bi-weekly pay periods.

Employees will not be entitled to overtime under more than one of (a) or (b), where overtime premiums have already been paid under either of these provisions.

- (C) Pursuant to Article 26.01 of this Memorandum, overtime at the rate of one and one-half (1.5) times the appropriate holiday rate will be paid:

- (1) for all overtime hours worked on a calendar statutory holiday;
- (2) for all overtime hours worked on a day which had originally been scheduled as a statutory holiday but was changed by the Employer with less than fourteen (14) calendar days' advance notice.

## **ARTICLE 28 – PREMIUMS**

**28.01** Effective April 1, 2022, an employee shall be paid an evening shift premium of \$1.50 per hour for all hours worked between 1530 hours and 2330 hours. Effective April 1, 2023, an employee shall be paid a shift premium of \$1.40 for all hours worked between 1530 hours and 2330 hours.

Effective April 1, 2022, an employee shall be paid a night shift premium of \$4.25 per hour worked between 2330 hours and 0730 hours. Effective April 1, 2023, an employee shall be paid a night shift premium of \$5.00 per hour worked between 2330 and 0730 hours.

For shifts of eight (8) hours or less, the shift premium is payable only when one-half or more than one-half of the hours of work fall within the defined evening or night shifts. In such cases the shift premium shall be paid for all hours worked.

## **ARTICLE 30 – RESPONSIBILITY PAY**

A Level 3 nurse designated in charge of a unit, department or worksite for two (2) hours or more shall be paid an allowance of \$2.50per hour.

The Employer may designate or assign 'in-charge' duties to a Level 1 nurse as set out above in the following circumstances:

- (a) in sites where no bargaining unit Level 3 nurse is on shift at the unit, department, or worksite; or
- (b) where the only RN or RPN on the unit, department, or worksite is an agency nurse.

For small Employers such as adult day care agencies, mental health and home support, the following shall apply:

For shifts in excess of eight (8) hours, a special allowance of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per hour will be paid to nurses designated in charge of a worksite.

An employee cannot receive both premiums referenced above on any given shift.

## **ARTICLE 33 – LEAVE – COMPASSIONATE**

### **33.02 Leave – With Pay**

Compassionate leave of absence with pay shall be granted for thirty seven point five (37.5) working hours.

## **ARTICLE 34 – LEAVE – COURT APPEARANCE**

- (B) An employee in receipt of their regular rate of pay and benefits while at court shall remit to the Employer any witness or jury fees received for the length of the extended work day that they are normally scheduled to work, providing these do not exceed their regular pay. Travelling and meal allowances paid by the Court and not by the Employer shall not be remitted.

## **ARTICLE 35 – LEAVE – EDUCATION**

- 35.03** (C)The Employer shall grant an educational leave of absence with pay, subject to the approval in Article 35.03(B) for normally scheduled work hours, as posted, that an individual regular employee gives of their own time. Such educational leave of absence with pay is not to exceed sixty-seven point five (67.5) hours of Employer contribution from April 1, 1992.

## **ARTICLE 37 – LEAVE – GENERAL**

### **37.01 Application**

An employee granted unpaid leave(s) of absence totalling less than one hundred fifty-seven point five (157.5) working hours in any year shall continue to accumulate all benefits. Any excess over one hundred fifty (150) working hours in any year shall be deducted from the length of service in the computation of benefits and for increment progression purposes, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the Union and the Employer.

For the purposes of this Memorandum, all reference to the twenty (20) working days of Article 37 in the Provincial Collective Agreement, shall be deemed to be one hundred fifty (150) working hours.

### **37.04 Domestic and Sexual Violence Leave**

- (A) If an employee or eligible person as defined in the *Employment Standards Act* experiences domestic or sexual violence, then in each calendar year an employee is entitled to a leave as follows:
- (1) Up to thirty-seven point five (37.5) hours of paid leave (inclusive of the paid leave in the *Employment Standards Act*) taken in one or more blocks of time;
  - (2) Up to thirty-seven point five (37.5) hours of unpaid leave taken in one or more blocks of time; and-
  - (3) Up to five hundred and sixty-two point five (562.5) hours of additional unpaid leave taken in one block of time or, with the Employer's agreement, more than one block of time.

## **ARTICLE 39 – LEAVE – PAID HOLIDAYS**

### **39.01 Paid Holiday Entitlement**

Each regular employee shall receive seven point five (7.5) paid hours off on or for the paid holidays outlined in Article 39.01 of the Provincial Collective Agreement, and for any other general holiday proclaimed by the Federal or Provincial Government.

### **39.03 Work on a Paid Holiday**

- (A) Regular Employee
- (1) A regular employee required to work on one of the paid holidays listed in Article 39.01 shall be paid at the rate of two (2) times for all hours of work in the day, provided that Articles 27.05, 29.04 and 39.04 are not applicable and, in addition, each regular employee shall receive seven point five (7.5) paid hours off as a statutory holiday. The rate of two (2) times will be paid for all hours of work within 0001 and 2400 hours on the named day.

(2) Super Stats (As Applicable)

Employees who are required to work on Christmas Day, Labour Day or Good Friday, shall be paid at the rate of two and one-half (2.5) times for all hours worked in the day provided that Articles 27.05, 29.04 and 39.04 are not applicable, and shall receive seven point five (7.5) paid hours off as a paid holiday. The rate of two and one-half (2.5) times shall be paid for all hours of work within 0001 and 2400 hours on the named day.

(B) Casual Employee

A casual employee who works on a paid holiday listed in Article 39.03 (A)(1) shall be paid two (2) times their rate of pay for all hours of work within 0001 and 2400 hours on the named day. A casual employee who works on a paid holiday listed in Article 39.03(A)(2), shall be paid two and one-half (2.5) times their rate of pay for all hours of work within 0001 and 2400 hours on the named day.

### **39.04 Premium Rates of Pay**

(D) Changes in Schedule with Insufficient Notice

Should the Employer change the work schedule without fourteen (14) calendar days' advance notice and as a consequence the regular employee is required to work on the paid holiday, then the employee shall be paid at the appropriate overtime rate for all hours worked on the day and, in addition, shall receive seven point five (7.5) paid hours off on or for the paid holiday.

### **39.07 Scheduling of Paid Holidays**

For the purposes of this Memorandum the statutory holidays outlined in Article 39.01 of the Provincial Collective Agreement are incorporated into the work schedules during off duty days. All such statutory holidays shall be identified and recorded in ink in the nursing staff work schedules on the basis of seven point five (7.5) paid hours. Every effort shall be made to spread the statutory holidays off evenly throughout the year.

## **ARTICLE 42 – LEAVE – SICK**

### **42.01 Accumulation**

Regular full-time employees shall receive eleven point two five (11.25) working hours' sick leave credits for each month of service and such sick leave credits, if not utilized, will be cumulative to a maximum of 1170 working hours.

Regular part-time employees shall receive sick leave credit on a proportionate basis, and such sick leave credits, if not utilized, will be cumulative to a maximum of 1170 working hours.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, employees with accumulated sick leave credits in excess of 1170 working hours, will retain the accumulated balance to their credit. Where this accumulated balance exceeds 1170 hours, no further credits shall be earned until the accumulated balance is reduced below 1170 hours, in which event the accumulation of sick leave shall be reinstated, but the accumulated balance shall not again exceed 1170 hours.

### **42.02 Payment**

Regular full-time employees shall receive regular pay for each shift of sick leave credit utilized. Regular part-time employees shall receive regular pay for scheduled work hours lost.

### **42.09(B) Appointments**

When an employee's doctor refers the employee to a specialist then any necessary travel time to a maximum of twenty-two point five (22.5) hours for the employee to visit such specialist shall be paid for and deducted from sick leave credits.

## **ARTICLE 43 – LEAVE – SPECIAL AND PERSONAL**

### **43.01 Special Leave**

#### **(A) Accumulation**

An employee shall earn special leave credits with pay up to a maximum of one hundred and fifty (150) hours at the rate of three point seven five (3.75) hours every four (4) weeks. Special leave shall be granted to a maximum of the accumulated leave at the time the special leave is taken.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, employees with accumulated special leave credits in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) hours (20 days X 7.5 hours) as of the first pay period following June 5, 2006, shall retain the accumulated balance to their credit. Where this accumulated credit exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) hours, no further credit shall be earned until the accumulated balance is reduced below one hundred and fifty (150) hours, in which event the accumulation of special leave credits shall be reinstated, but the accumulated balance shall not again exceed one hundred fifty (150) hours.

## **(B) Application**

Special leave shall be granted as follows:

- (1) marriage leave – thirty-seven point five (37.5) hours;
- (2) parental leave – thirty-seven point five (37.5) hours;
- (3) to provide care to an immediate family member who has a serious illness up to fifteen (15) hours at one time;
- (4) to assist an immediate family member who has a serious or potentially life-threatening illness with obtaining health education related to the serious or potentially life-threatening illness up to seven point five (7.5) working hours per calendar year;
- (5) leave of seven point five (7.5) hours may be added to five (5) days compassionate leave;
- (6) leave of seven point five (7.5) hours may be taken for travel associated with compassionate leave;
- (7) leave of up to twenty two point five (22.5) hours for absences resulting from the employee or employee's dependent child having experienced domestic or sexual violence.

## **43.02 Personal Leave**

### **Preamble**

The parties agree to create a leave structure that better reflects the realities of the lives of working nurses.



Effective January 1, 2023 and on each January 1 thereafter – all regular full-time and part-time employees will receive fifteen (15) personal leave hours per calendar year.

Such personal days are subject to operational requirements and can be attached to other leaves of absence, including vacation and paid statutory holidays.

The parties agree to the joint interpretation on personal leave, signed April 1, 2023.

## **ARTICLE 45 – LEAVE – VACATION**

### **45.01 Vacation Entitlement**

- (C) Regular employees will be entitled to a vacation away from work, when the qualifying year(s) of service are attained before July 1, as follows:

150.0 working hours after 1 year of continuous\* service

150.0 working hours after 2 years of continuous service

150.0 working hours after 3 years of continuous service

150.0 working hours after 4 years of continuous service

157.5 working hours after 5 years of continuous service

165.0 working hours after 6 years of continuous service

172.5 working hours after 7 years of continuous service

180.0 working hours after 8 years of continuous service

187.5 working hours after 9 years of continuous service

195.0 working hours after 10 years of continuous service

202.5 working hours after 11 years of continuous service

210.0 working hours after 12 years of continuous service

217.5 working hours after 13 years of continuous service

225.0 working hours after 14 years of continuous service

232.5 working hours after 15 years of continuous service

240.0 working hours after 16 years of continuous service

247.5 working hours after 17 years of continuous service  
 255.0 working hours after 18 years of continuous service  
 262.5 working hours after 19 years of continuous service  
 270.0 working hours after 20 years of continuous service  
 277.5 working hours after 21 years of continuous service  
 285.0 working hours after 22 years of continuous service  
 292.5 working hours after 23 years of continuous service  
 300.0 working hours after 24 years of continuous service  
 307.5 working hours after 25 years of continuous service  
 315.0 working hours after 26 years of continuous service  
 322.5 working hours after 27 years of continuous service  
 330.0 working hours after 28 years of continuous service  
 337.5 working hours after 29 years of continuous service  
 (Reference Article 51 – Portability)

\*continuous service means years of service with the Employer but does not include any of the following periods:

- a. Time spent as a casual employee
- b. Time spent on an unpaid leave of absence beyond 20 work days in any year.
- c. Time spent on layoff.
- d. Time spent in receipt of long-term disability insurance plan benefits.

(D) Regular part-time employees are entitled to vacation leave on a pro-rata basis as follows:

Hours paid* excluding overtime to June 30 (inclusive)	x	regular pay	x	yearly vacation entitlement
1950				

\* Includes leave without pay up to one hundred fifty (150) working hours.

- (E) Regular part-time employees are entitled to vacation leave on a pro-rata basis as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Hours paid* excluding overtime to June 30 (inclusive)}}{1950} \times \text{regular pay} \times \text{yearly vacation entitlement}$$

\* Includes leave without pay up to one hundred and fifty (150) working hours.

Any fraction of a day shall be given as paid time off at a time mutually agreed to by the Employer and the employee. Application of the foregoing will not be governed by the provisions of Article 45.04 – Scheduling of Vacation.

### **45.03 Supplementary Vacation**

The supplementary vacations as set out below are to be banked on the outlined supplementary vacation employment anniversary date and taken at the employee's option at any time subsequent to the current supplementary vacation employment anniversary date but prior to the next supplementary vacation employment anniversary date.

- (A) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of twenty-five (25) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional thirty-seven point five (37.5) working hours' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (B) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of thirty (30) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional seventy-five (75) working hours' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (C) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of thirty-five (35) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional one hundred and twelve point five (112.5) working hours' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.
- (D) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of forty (40) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional one hundred twelve point five (112.5) working

hours' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.

- (E) Upon reaching the employment anniversary of forty-five (45) years of continuous service, employees shall have earned an additional one hundred twelve point five (112.5) working hours' vacation with pay. This provision applies when the qualifying date occurs before July 1 in each year.

#### **45.04 Scheduling of Vacation**

- (D) Notwithstanding Article 45.04(C), employees may hold back up to forty-five (45) hours in the annual vacation planning process. This remaining vacation must be requested and approved by August 1st of each year. Any remaining vacation not scheduled may be scheduled by the Employer.

### **ARTICLE 61 – EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATING DATES**

**61.01** This Memorandum of Agreement is effective from April 1, 1985, for those departments, program or units on the extended work day/compressed work week as of that date. In those departments, programs or units for which the extended work day/compressed work week was implemented after April 1, 1985, this Memorandum of Agreement is effective from the commencement date of the extended work day/compressed work week.

This Memorandum will continue to be in effect until terminated by either party, or until a new Memorandum is prepared to coincide with a new Provincial Collective Agreement, whichever occurs sooner.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum after serving twenty-eight (28) calendar days' written notice to the other party of its intention to terminate the extended work day/compressed work week.

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ENHANCED DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

#### **Section A – General Principles and Application (effective April 1, 2011)**

The purpose of the Enhanced Disability Management Program (EDMP) is to facilitate an employee-centered, pro-active, appropriate

and customized disability management program for employees with occupational and non-occupational illness/injury.

Employees who participate in the program will benefit from a holistic Case Management Plan (CMP) that may include medical intervention, transitional work (TW), a graduated return to work (GRTW), workplace modifications, vocational rehabilitation and/or retraining.

## **1.0 Elements of the EDMP**

- 1.1 A CMP will be developed for all employees who participate in the EDMP and will include milestones and expected outcomes. An employee's CMP will be based on the assessment of factors such as prognosis, capabilities and limitations, skill and education, and the likelihood of a return to work. The CMP is intended to provide early, appropriate and on-going support for ill or injured employees. The EDMP process sets out regular reviews and monitoring of individuals and is intended to provide a more seamless process for employees returning to work or requiring support from the Long Term Disability (LTD) Plan while in receipt of benefits.
- 1.2 The LTD Plan is available to employees who meet the LTD eligibility requirements. In circumstances where the employee's absence results in an employee receiving an LTD benefit, this benefit will be part of the employee's CMP.
- 1.3 The EDMP shall be made up of this Appendix, the Policies and Procedures, and the Case Management Dispute Resolution Process. The Policies & Procedures document can be updated, as necessary, by the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC).

## **2.0 Effective Date**

- 2.1 The EDMP is effective April 1, 2011.
- 2.2 The EDMP shall address all phases of the disability management process and will replace existing Collective Agreement provisions related to early intervention, long term disability and early safe return to work for all employees with a date of disability on or after April 1, 2011. Unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties, existing collective agreement provisions related to early intervention, long term disability and early safe return to work will continue to apply to employees with a date of disability prior to April 1, 2011.

### **3.0 Goals**

The Goal of EDMP is to:

- Provide early, appropriate and on-going support so that ill/injured employees maintain their connection with the workplace and return to work in a safe and timely manner.
- Provide support to employees who are struggling at work when participation in this program could reasonably prevent the employee from being off work.
- Provide appropriate, caring, professional case management of the ill/injured employee's medical, personal, workplace and vocational issues to facilitate a timely return to work.
- Promote a safe, accessible and healthy workplace.
- Encourage health promotion and employee wellness.
- Reduce the cost of sick, long term disability (LTD) and Workers Compensation Board (WCB) leaves.

### **4.0 Overriding Principles**

- Improvements in disability management processes will be jointly developed and administered.
- Disability management is intended to facilitate early intervention, effective rehabilitation, stay at work and early return to work programs.
- Reasonably addresses barriers to return to work – medical, personal, vocational and/or workplace.
- Emphasis will be placed on developing a program that responds in a timely manner. The earliest possible return to work is in the best interest of an employee who is disabled.
- Prevention and disability management processes will be evidence based, continuous and integrated.
- EDMP processes will potentially apply to all incidents of inability to work as a result of illness, injury, disability or impairment.

- Regular employees who are off work with a work related illness/injury or who are off work for a non-work related illness/injury for 5 consecutive shifts are required to participate in the program unless the employee has a bona fide reason to decline.
- EDMP will be compliant with legislation and regulations (e.g. *Workers' Compensation Act*, human rights legislation, including duty to accommodate and privacy laws), and the Provincial Collective Agreement (PCA).
- Confidential medical information will be protected.
- Disability management is most effective when delivered as close to the workplace as possible.
- An effective system-wide evaluation will be implemented. This requires the development of a framework, determining key metrics and identifying the frequency of data sharing.
- Effective disability management is intended to reduce costs and should recognize that a cost/benefit analysis of individual situations may be required.

## **5.0 Governance and Administration**

### **5.1 Provincial Steering Committee (PSC)**

5.1.1 The PSC will be made up of six (6) representatives of HEABC and its members, and six (6) representatives of the Association.

5.1.2 The PSC will be the governing body and will carry out its roles and functions in accordance with the EDMP, and will establish a sufficient number of Working Groups to oversee the day to day operation of the program.

### **5.2 Working Group Participation**

5.2.1 The Union and the Employer will appoint an equal number of representatives.

## **6.0 Standard Practices**

6.1 The EDMP will be administered in a manner consistent with the PCA and the policies and procedures developed by the PSC.

- 6.2 In the event the employer uses a third party to provide EDMP services, the employer will ensure that the third party fulfills its role in a manner consistent with the EDMP. The employer will ensure that the necessary service level standards are in place with the third party provider.

## **7.0 Evaluation**

- 7.1 The parties agree to conduct evaluations in accordance with the established framework.

## **8.0 Provision of Services**

- 8.1 EDMP will provide appropriate services at no cost to the employee, including the cost of obtaining Occupational Functional Assessments (OFAs).

## **9.0 Dispute Resolution Process**

- 9.1 All case management disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the Case Management Dispute Resolution Process.
- 9.2 All other disputes concerning the interpretation, application, operation or any alleged violation of the EDMP are subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure set out in the PCA.

## **10.0 Privacy**

- 10.1 Confidentiality and the right to privacy protection is an important guiding principle of the EDMP. Confidentiality policies will be developed by the PSC including rules regarding what information is collected, from whom and under what circumstances it is shared, and where and for how long it is stored.

## **11.0 Case Management**

- 11.1 Eligible employees will benefit from a holistic CMP that may include medical intervention, transitional work, graduated return to work, workplace modifications, vocational rehabilitation, and/or retraining. All CMPs will be developed in accordance with the EDMP. The CMP will be based on the assessment of factors such as prognosis, capabilities and limitations, skill and education, and likelihood of a return to work.
- 11.2 Upon successful completion of a CMP, an employee will return to their own job unless it is identified in the CMP that an em-



ployee cannot return to their own job. An employee who cannot return to their own job will be an automatic candidate for all vacancies with the Employer and shall have the ability to bump under the collective agreement for positions that the employee is qualified and capable of performing.

## **12.0 Request for Leave while engaged in a CMP**

12.1 Employees who are engaged in a CMP may request leave on a day that they are scheduled to work. Leaves will be granted and paid in accordance with the PCA (see Section B – 16.1 for employees in receipt of LTD benefits).

## **13.0 Graduated Return to Work (GRTW)**

13.1 A Graduated Return to Work (GRTW) supports an employee through a time limited gradual increase in hours and/or duties to return to their own job or suitable alternate position.

13.2 Participation in a GRTW is contingent upon clearance from the appropriate medical professional. The GRTW shall be considered as part of the treatment/rehabilitation process under the EDMP. All employees engaged in a GRTW shall be supernumerary.

13.3 A written GRTW for the employee will include:

13.3.1 An overview of the employee's GRTW, including its expected outcome and end date, and

13.3.2 The number of phases, their duration and the number of hours to be worked per shift in each phase.

## **14.0 Wages and Benefits on a GRTW as part of a CMP**

14.1 Employees will receive pay and appropriate premiums for all hours worked. Sick, vacation or banked time off, if available, may be used for hours not worked.

14.2 Benefits under Article 46 are reinstated on commencement of a GRTW and continue while the employee is actively participating in the program.

14.3 All other benefits of the PCA accrue on a proportionate basis (see Section B – 17 for employees in receipt of LTD benefits).

## **Section B – Long Term Disability (LTD) Plan – Waiting Period (date of disability on or after April 1, 2011)**

### **1.0 Eligibility**

- 1.1 Regular full-time and regular part-time employees, upon completion of the three-month probationary period, become members of the Long Term Disability (LTD) Plan as a condition of employment.
- 1.2 In the event an employee, while enrolled in this Plan, becomes totally disabled on or after April 1, 2011 and before April 1, 2012 as a result of an accident or sickness, then, after the employee has been totally disabled for five (5) months, the employee shall be eligible for long term disability benefits.

In the event an employee, while enrolled in this Plan, becomes totally disabled on or after April 1, 2012 as a result of an accident or sickness, then, after the employee has been totally disabled for four (4) months, the employee shall be eligible for long term disability benefits.

Effective April 1, 2012 one million three hundred and thirty one thousand (\$1,331,000) per fiscal year is allocated from the ongoing 2010-2012 Total Compensation Residual monies to reduce the LTD waiting period from five (5) months to four (4).

- 1.3 Total Disability, as used in this LTD Plan, means the complete inability because of an accident or sickness, of a covered employee to perform the duties of their own occupation for the first two (2) years of disability. Thereafter, an employee who is able by reason of education, training, or experience to perform the duties of any gainful occupation for which the rate of pay equals or exceeds seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of disability shall no longer be considered totally disabled under the Plan. However, the employee may be eligible for a Residual Monthly Disability Benefit (See Section B – 6 Residual Monthly Disability Benefit of this Appendix).

Total disabilities resulting from mental or nervous disorders are covered by the plan in the same manner as total disabilities resulting from accidents or other sicknesses.

- 1.4 During a period of total disability an employee must be under the regular care of a medical doctor.

## **2.0 Exclusions from Coverage**

- 2.1 The LTD Plan does not cover total disabilities resulting from:
  - 2.1.1 war, insurrection, rebellion, or service in the armed forces of any country;
  - 2.1.2 voluntary participation in a riot or civil commotion, except while an employee is in the course of performing the duties of their regular occupation;
  - 2.1.3 intentionally self-inflicted injuries or illness.

## **3.0 Application for LTD Benefits**

- 3.1 A written application under the LTD Plan shall be sent to the claims-paying agent no longer than forty-five (45) days after the earliest foreseeable commencement date of benefit payments from the LTD Plan or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. Failure to apply within the time stated shall not invalidate nor reduce the claim if it was not reasonably possible to file the required application within such time, provided the application is sent no later than six (6) months from the time the application is otherwise required.

## **4.0 Waiting Period/Transition to LTD**

- 4.1 Employees who still have unused sick leave credits after the waiting period when the long term disability benefit becomes payable shall have the option of:
  - 4.1.1 using sick leave credits to top up the long term disability benefit; or
  - 4.1.2 banking the unused sick leave credits for future use.
- 4.2 Employees who will be eligible for benefits under the LTD Plan shall not have their employment terminated. Following expiration of their sick leave credits and/or any other paid leaves to which they are entitled, they shall be placed on unpaid leave of absence until receipt of LTD benefits.
- 4.3 Employees who have a CMP and participate in transitional work, a graduated return to work or an accommodation during

the LTD waiting period will not have their entitlement to LTD benefits delayed as a result of participating in the CMP.

- 4.4 An employee who has been granted any unpaid leave of absence totaling less than twenty-one (21) days in any year (including time while in receipt of LTD) shall continue to accumulate all benefits.
- 4.5 An employee shall not accumulate benefits from the twenty-first (21st) day of unpaid leave (including time while in receipt of LTD) to the last day of the unpaid leave (see Article 37 of the PCA).
- 4.6 Upon expiration of an unpaid leave an employee shall receive credit for previously earned benefits and shall resume accumulating benefits.

## **5.0 LTD Benefits**

- 5.1 Provisions set out under Section B – 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 apply to employees in receipt of LTD benefits.
- 5.2 Medical, Extended Health and Dental – Employees on long term disability who have already been granted unpaid leave of absence (including time while in receipt of LTD benefits) totaling up to twenty (20) days in any year may choose to continue to maintain any or all of the Medical, Extended Health and Dental benefit plan coverage. The premiums will be cost shared by the employer and employee on a 50-50 basis provided the employee pays their portion of the premium for such coverage in advance on a monthly basis.
- 5.3 Pension – Employees on long term disability shall be considered employees for the purposes of pension in accordance with the Municipal or the Public Service Pension Plan Rules, as applicable.
- 5.4 Group Life Insurance – Employees on long term disability shall have their group life insurance and AD&D premiums waived and their coverage continued.
- 5.5 LTD Premiums – LTD premiums shall be waived while an employee is in receipt of a disability benefit from the LTD Plan.
- 5.6 Totally disabled employees shall receive a benefit equal to seventy percent (70%) of the first \$5843 of the pre-disability

monthly earnings and fifty percent (50%) on the pre-disability monthly earnings above \$5843 or sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66-2/3%) of pre-disability monthly earnings, whichever is more. The \$5843 level is to be increased annually by the increase in the weighted average wage rate for employees under the PCA for the purpose of determining the benefit amount for eligible employees as at their date of disability.

It is understood that this adjustment will only be applied once for each eligible employee, i.e., at the date of the disability, to determine the benefit amount to be paid prospectively for the duration of entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan.

- 5.7 In the event that the LTD benefit falls below the amount set out in Section B – 5.6 above for the job that the claimant was in at the time of commencement of receipt of benefits, LTD benefits will be adjusted prospectively to seventy percent (70%) of the first \$5843 of the current monthly earnings and fifty percent (50%) on the current monthly earnings above \$5843 or sixty-six and two-thirds percent (66-2/3%) of current monthly earnings, whichever is more based on the wage rate in effect following review by HBT/underwriter every four years. (Note: the \$5843 figure will be adjusted as set out in Section B – 5.6 above).
- 5.8 For the purposes of the above, earnings shall mean basic monthly earnings (including isolation allowances where applicable) as at the date of disability. Basic monthly earnings for regular part-time employees shall be calculated on the basis of the employee's average monthly hours of work for the twelve-month period or such shorter period that the employee has been employed, prior to the date of disability, multiplied by their hourly pay rate as at the date of disability.
- 5.9 The LTD benefit payment shall be made so long as an employee remains totally disabled and shall cease on the date the employee reaches age sixty-five (65), recovers, dies, or is eligible for and begins receiving the Early Retirement Incentive Benefit ("ERIB"), whichever occurs first.
- 5.10 Employees are not to be terminated for non-culpable absenteeism, while in receipt of long term disability benefits.

## **6.0 Residual Monthly Disability Benefit**

- 6.1 The Residual Monthly Disability Benefit is based on eighty-five percent (85%) of the rate of pay at the date of the disability less the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that the employee is able to perform. The Residual Monthly Disability Benefit will continue until the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that the employee is able to perform equals or exceeds eighty-five percent (85%) of the rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of the disability. The benefit is calculated using the employee's monthly long term disability net of offsets benefit and the percentage difference between the eighty-five percent (85%) of the employee's rate of pay at the date of disability and the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that they are able to perform.

### **Example:**

- (a) Monthly long term disability net of offsets benefit = \$1000.00 per month
- (b) 85% rate of pay at date of disability = \$13.60 per hour
- (c) 70% of current rate of pay = \$12.12 per hour
- (d) percentage difference  $[(b/c) - 1] = 12.2\%$
- (e) Residual Monthly Disability Benefit  $(a \times d) = \$122.00$

## **7.0 Integration with other Disability Income**

- 7.1 In the event a totally disabled employee is entitled to any other income as a result of the same accident, sickness, mental or nervous disorder that caused them to be eligible to receive benefits from this Plan, the benefits from this LTD Plan shall be reduced by one hundred percent (100%) of such other disability income.
- 7.2 If other disability income is available to the employee, they must apply for this income prior to receiving LTD benefits. Other disability income shall include but is not limited to:

- 7.2.1 any amount payable under any Workers' Compensation Act or law or any other legislation of similar purpose; and
  - 7.2.2 any amount the disabled employee receives from any group insurance, wage continuation, or pension plan of the Employer that provides disability income; and
  - 7.2.3 any amount of disability income provided by a compulsory act or law; and
  - 7.2.4 any periodic primary benefit payment from the Canada or Quebec Pension Plans or other similar social security plan of any country to which the disabled employee is entitled or to which they would be entitled had they applied for such a benefit; and
  - 7.2.5 any amount of disability income provided by any group or association disability plan to which the disabled employee might belong to or subscribe.
- 7.3 Private or individual disability plan benefits of the disabled employee shall not reduce the benefit from this Plan.
- 7.4 If a disabled employee becomes entitled to other disability income, such as a WCB or CPP award, as a result of the same accident, sickness, or illness for which they are eligible and entitled to receive LTD benefits under the LTD Plan, then the LTD Plan is entitled to be repaid in accordance with Appendix B.
- 7.5 The amount by which the disability benefit from this Plan is reduced by other disability income shall be the amount to which the disabled employee is entitled upon becoming first eligible for such other disability income. Future increases in such other disability income resulting from increases in the Canadian Consumer Price Index or similar indexing arrangements shall not further reduce the benefit from this Plan until the LTD benefit payable is recalculated to reflect current wage rates [Reference Section B – 5.7].

## **8.0 LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Provision**

- 8.1 The LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Benefit (“LTD Plan ERIB”) is to ensure that the eligible employee will not realize a pension benefit that is less than the pension benefit that they would have been entitled to receive at the normal retirement

date, had they not applied for early retirement, regardless of when the early retirement incentive provision is activated.

- 8.2 An employee under this Agreement who is:
- 8.2.1 eligible for, or who is receiving LTD benefits or who has been in receipt of benefits for four (4) years or more,
  - 8.2.2 eligible for early retirement pension benefits; and
  - 8.2.3 not eligible for the LTD Plan Rehabilitation Provisions shall apply for early retirement.
- 8.3 The employee's entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall, provided the employee remains eligible as per the definition of Total Disability, continue during the period of time that their application for early retirement is being processed with their pension plan administrator. In the event that the employee is not eligible for an unreduced pension benefit, they may still be eligible for the LTD Plan ERIB.
- 8.4 Entitlement to and the amount of the LTD Plan ERIB shall be determined by considering the following factors:
- 8.4.1 the amount of the monthly pension benefit that the employee would have been entitled to receive if early retirement was not elected;
  - 8.4.2 the amount of the monthly early retirement benefit that the employee will receive;
  - 8.4.3 the amount of the gross monthly LTD benefit that the employee is entitled to receive;
  - 8.4.4 the amount of the net-of-offsets monthly LTD benefit that the employee is entitled to receive; and,
  - 8.4.5 the maximum LTD benefit duration period applicable to the employee.
- 8.5 If the combination of pension benefit, Canada Pension Plan retirement benefit and any other disability income referred to in Section B – 7.2 of this Appendix results in monthly income of less than the LTD monthly income benefit, then the eligible employee shall be entitled to remain on LTD benefits.



- 8.6 An employee who is eligible for the LTD Plan ERIB shall be entitled to receive the benefit in a lump sum, or direct the Healthcare Benefit Trust to any other designate. The employee shall complete an LTD Plan ERIB Application. Upon approval of the employee's application, the employee and the Healthcare Benefit Trust will jointly sign the terms of the LTD Plan ERIB and the employee and the members of the Joint LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Committee shall sign the LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Agreement on behalf of the Parties to the PCA.
- 8.7 All eligible employees who are entitled to the LTD Plan ERIB shall be entitled to the continuation of the Life Benefit coverage in effect until 65 years of age, or death, whichever is earlier.

## **9.0 LTD Appeals**

- 9.1 LTD claims shall be adjudicated and paid by a claims-paying agent to be appointed by the Trustee. The claims paying agent shall provide toll free telephone access to claimants. In the event a covered employee disputes a decision of the claims-paying agent regarding a claim for benefits under the LTD Plan, the employee may file an appeal requesting that the claim be re-examined by the claims-paying agent.
- 9.2 The claims-paying agent shall provide a decision letter which includes the reasons for acceptance or denial of an appeal and shall provide it to the claimant, and the Union upon receipt of authorization from the claimant.
- 9.3 File disclosure including all medical opinions and case notes shall be provided to the Union when requested and upon receipt of authorization from the claimant.
- 9.4 A claimant shall have a two (2) year time limit to appeal any decision to deny or terminate a claim unless there are good and sufficient reasons to extend the time period. Claimants shall be provided with information about the appeal process and contact information for their union representative.

## **10.0 Claims Review Committee (CRC)**

- 10.1 If the employee continues to dispute a decision of the claims-paying agent, the employee may request to have the claim reviewed by a Claims Review Committee (CRC) comprised of

three (3) independent and qualified medical doctors agreed to by the LTD Plan Advisory Committee.

## **11.0 Return to Work**

- 11.1 Upon return to work following recovery, an employee who was on claim for less than twenty-four (24) months shall continue in their former job. An employee who was on claim for more than twenty-four (24) months shall return to an equivalent position, exercising their seniority rights if necessary, pursuant to Article 13 and Article 19.

## **12.0 Successive Disabilities**

- 12.1 If, following a period of total disability with respect to which benefits are paid from this Plan, an employee returns to work for a continuous period of six (6) months or more, any subsequent total disability suffered by that employee, whether related to the preceding disability or not, shall be considered a new disability and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments after the completion of another waiting period.
- 12.2 In the event the period during which such an employee has returned to work is less than six (6) months and the employee again suffers a total disability that is related to the preceding disability, the subsequent disability shall be deemed a continuation of the preceding disability, and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments without the necessity of completing another waiting period.
- 12.3 Should such an employee suffer a subsequent disability that is unrelated to the previous disability and provided the period during which the employee returned to work is longer than one (1) month, the subsequent disability shall be considered a new disability and the employee shall be entitled to benefit payments after the completion of another waiting period. If the period during which the employee returned to work is one (1) month or less, the subsequent disability shall be deemed a continuation of the preceding disability and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments without the necessity of completing another waiting period.

### **13.0 Rehabilitation under LTD Plan**

- 13.1 Rehabilitative employment shall mean any occupation or employment for wages or profit or any course or training that entitles the disabled employee to an allowance, provided such rehabilitative employment has the approval of the employee's doctor and the underwriter of the LTD Plan.
- 13.2 Approved Rehabilitation Plan (ARP) means a rehabilitation plan that has been jointly developed by the employee and the employee's union, the Disability Management Professional (DMP) and the HBT/underwriter and approved by HBT/underwriter, consistent with the principles of the EDMP. The ARP shall be signed by the employee and the HBT/underwriter.

In the event that an employee is medically able to participate in a rehabilitation activity or program, called an ARP, that can be expected to facilitate a return to their own job or other gainful employment, entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan will continue for the duration of the ARP as long as the employee continues to participate and cooperate in the ARP.

### **14.0 Rehabilitation Review Committee (RRC)**

- 14.1 In the event that the eligible employee does not agree with the rehabilitation plan or does not agree that they are medically able to participate and cooperate in the rehabilitation plan, then, to ensure benefit entitlement under the LTD Plan, the employee must either:
- 14.1.1 be able to demonstrate reasonable grounds for being unable to participate and cooperate in the rehabilitation plan; or,
  - 14.1.2 appeal the dispute to the Rehabilitation Review Committee (RRC) for a resolution.
- 14.2 The RRC shall be composed of three (3) qualified individuals who, by education, training, and experience are recognized specialists in the rehabilitation of disabled employees. The RRC shall be composed of three (3) individuals chosen on a rotating basis from a list of rehabilitation specialists mutually acceptable to the parties. The purpose of the RRC shall be to resolve the appeal of an eligible employee who:

14.2.1 does not agree with the rehabilitation plan; or,

14.2.2 does not agree that they could medically participate in the rehabilitation plan.

- 14.3 During the appeal process, the eligible employee's entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall continue until the RRC has made its decision. The decision of the RRC shall determine whether or not the eligible employee is required to participate and cooperate in the rehabilitation plan. The rehabilitation plan approved by the RRC shall be deemed to be the ARP. In the event that the eligible employee does not accept the RRC's decision, their entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall be suspended until such time as the eligible employee is willing to participate and cooperate in the ARP.

#### **15.0 Rehabilitative Employment Benefits and Entitlements while in receipt of LTD Benefits**

- 15.1 An Employee who returns to gainful rehabilitative employment under an ARP will receive all monthly rehabilitation earnings plus a monthly Long Term Disability benefit up to the amount set out in Section B – 5.6 of this Appendix provided that the total of such income does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of the disability.
- 15.2 An employee who returns to gainful rehabilitative employment under an ARP and works 15 hours or more per week will have their Medical, Dental, and Extended Health benefits reinstated. Group life insurance, AD&D and LTD premiums are waived.
- 15.3 An employee who returns to gainful rehabilitative employment under an ARP will have all other benefits accrue on a proportionate basis.
- 15.4 Earnings received by an employee during a period of total disability that are derived from employment which has not been approved as rehabilitative employment under an ARP, shall reduce the regular monthly benefit from the Plan by one hundred percent (100%) of such earnings.
- 15.5 If the ARP involves a change in own occupation, the LTD benefit period will continue at least until the end of the first two (2) years

of disability or some lesser period as agreed to by the employee, the Union and the DMP as part of a CMP.

15.6 Upon successful completion of the ARP an employee who is unable to return to their own job may have their LTD benefit period extended for a maximum of six (6) months for the purpose of job search.

#### **16.0 Request for Paid Leave while engaged in Rehabilitative Employment and in Receipt of LTD Benefits**

16.1 Requests for paid leaves, except sick leave, on a day that an employee is scheduled to work will be granted and paid in accordance with the PCA and will not result in income that exceeds one hundred percent (100%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of the disability. (See Section A – 12.1 for leaves while engaged in rehabilitative employment and not in receipt of LTD benefits).

#### **17.0 GRTW Wages and Benefits while in receipt of LTD Benefits**

17.1 These employees are considered disabled and under treatment.

17.2 The employees will receive pay and appropriate premiums for all hours worked. The LTD Plan will pay for hours not worked at two-thirds (2/3) of basic monthly earnings at the date of disability.

17.3 On the commencement of a GRTW Medical, Dental, and Extended Health benefits are reinstated. Group life insurance, AD&D and LTD premiums are waived.

17.4 An employee who is engaged in a GRTW under an ARP will have all other benefits accrue on a proportionate basis.

#### **18.0 LTD Premiums While On A Leave of Absence**

18.1 Employees on leave of absence without pay may opt to retain coverage under the Plan and shall pay the full premium. Coverage shall be permitted for a period of twelve (12) months of absence without pay, except if such leave is for educational purposes, when the maximum period shall be extended to two (2) years. If an employee on leave of absence without pay becomes disabled, their allowance under this Plan shall be based

upon monthly earnings immediately prior to the leave of absence.

## **19.0 Benefits Upon Plan Termination**

19.1 In the event this LTD Plan is terminated, the benefit payments shall continue to be paid in accordance with the provisions of this Plan to disabled employees who became disabled while covered by the LTD Plan prior to its termination.

## **20.0 Premiums**

20.1 The cost of the LTD Plan shall be borne by the Employer. Payment of premiums shall cease on termination of employment or five (5) months prior to an employee's sixty-fifth (65th) birthday, whichever occurs first.

## **21.0 Administration**

21.1 The Employer shall administer and be the sole trustee of the Plan.

21.2 The claims-paying agent shall provide HEABC and the Association with copies of policies, procedures and guidelines used for claims adjudication.

21.3 The Union shall have access to any reports provided by the claims-paying agent regarding experience information.

21.4 All questions arising as to the interpretation of this Plan shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure in the PCA.

## **22.0 Long Term Disability Plan Advisory Committee**

22.1 The parties will work together to improve the LTD Plan processes. Two (2) persons from HEABC and one person from the HBT or other benefit administrator or service provider shall meet with three (3) representatives of the Association.

## **23.0 Provincial Collective Agreement Unprejudiced**

23.1 The terms of the Plan set out above shall not prejudice the application or interpretation of the PCA.

## **APPENDIX A.1**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ENHANCED DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – ADMINISTRATION**

Whereas an Enhanced Disability Management Program (“EDMP”) was incorporated into the collective agreement for the purpose of facilitating an employee centred, proactive, appropriate and customized disability management program for employees with occupational and non-occupational illness/injury; and

Whereas the EDMP is governed by a Provincial Steering Committee (“PSC”) made up of equal representatives of the HEABC and the NBA; and

Whereas twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost savings from the EDMP are allocated to improve disability management (“Cost Savings”);

Therefore the parties agree that:

Effective April 1, 2023, the parties will allocate an amount of three million, six hundred and forty-three thousand dollars (\$3,643,000) annually for the following purposes:

- (A) One million, two hundred and ninety thousand dollars (\$1,290,000) shall be set aside for occupational health and safety purposes as outlined in MOA Re: Provincial Occupational Health and Safety.
- (B) All remaining funds will be allocated for the purposes set out in Appendix A.2 – Enhanced Disability Management Program – Regional Representation. Of which five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) will be used to pay for administration of the EDMP on a provincial basis which includes one Provincial EDMP coordinator for the employers appointed by HEABC/Health Authorities and one Provincial EDMP coordinator appointed by the NBA.

The coordinators in paragraph (B) above will report to the PSC and will work collaboratively to administer the program in a manner consistent with the goals and principles of the EDMP, including coordinating the work of representatives of each party and ensuring implementation of provincial standards.

The coordinators will be responsible, under the direction of the PSC, for the overall administration of the EDMP, including disbursing the funds remaining from the \$500,000 allocation. Priorities for these funds will include joint training for all stakeholders and the establishment and maintenance of information technology systems and other communication tools.

## **APPENDIX A.2**

### **ENHANCED DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – REGIONAL REPRESENTATION**

An Enhanced Disability Management Program (“EDMP”) was incorporated into the collective agreement for the purpose of facilitating an employee centered, pro-active, appropriate and customized disability management program for employees with occupational and non-occupational illness/injury.

The parties agree to the creation of twenty-two (22) union disability management representatives to support the coordination and promotion of the program. These representatives will work in collaboration with the Employer’s Disability Management Professionals to promote and coordinate best practices with respect to disability management, and will adhere to the roles and responsibilities of the union representative as identified in the EDMP Policies and Procedures document. Representatives will work under the direction of designated BCNU staff.

These representatives will be distributed by Region as follows:

- 3 VCH
- 5 FHA
- 1 PHSA
- 1 Providence
- 4 VIHA
- 4 IHA
- 1 NHA
- 1 Affiliate Sites
- 2 Vacation Backfill (from the Fraser Health Authority)
- 22 Total



On request, the parties will provide a list of their respective EDMP representatives by region. Effective April 1, 2023, the affiliate representative will be selected from a Health Authority/Providence Health Care.

EDMP representatives are entitled to up to a maximum of six (6) weeks of vacation backfill.

The parties agree that the cost of the twenty-two (22) regional union disability management representatives will be funded out of the Appendix A.1 – Enhanced Disability Management Program – Administration.

Regional assignments will be determined by mutual agreement between the parties.

Normally, only one (1) EDMP representative will participate in case-specific meetings or issues at the same time, unless mutually agreed between the Employer and Union at the local level. Notwithstanding, meetings should normally have a similar number of attendees from the Employer and Union. In the event that the Union desires an additional person to attend for mentorship or training, they may apply for union leave under Article 44.01(F)

The parties agree to use technology, where appropriate, (e.g., ZOOM, teleconference) to allow representatives to support remote sites in a cost efficient and effective manner.

#### Hours of Work and Remuneration

EDMP representatives will have the same hours of work and receive the same remuneration as the positions under Appendix W – Full Time Steward and Steward at Large Position.

### **APPENDIX A.3**

#### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PREMIUM MAINTENANCE WHILE AWAITING LTD**

Employees who have applied for LTD or whose LTD application is under appeal are eligible for financial assistance in relation to Medical, Extended Health, Dental, Group Life and AD&D, and LTD premiums provided the employee has:

- o exhausted their sick leave credits,

- o used up all vacation entitlements,
- o exhausted all other paid leave and banks that they are entitled to, and
- o used up their twenty (20) days unpaid leave grace period.

Provided the employee has fulfilled the above requirements the NBA (BCNU) will reimburse the employee for the cost of the benefits premiums for the remaining eligibility waiting period for LTD or the appeal period not to exceed twelve (12) months.

## **APPENDIX A.4**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN – PREMIUM MAINTENANCE**

Effective April 1, 2012, four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) per fiscal year is allocated from the ongoing 2010-2012 Total Compensation Residual monies to a fund to cover the costs of the LTD Plan – Premium Maintenance.

The NBA will administer the Premium Maintenance Fund and will provide an annual reporting of the expenditure of the funds to HEABC verifying that the sum was disbursed in the manner and for the purposes described above. This will include a summary statement of the transactions and balances for the year, as well as a copy of the NBA's audited financial statements.

The annual report will be provided within sixty (60) days following the fiscal year end.

The NBA may redirect all or a portion of the \$400,000 residual monies allocation by mutual agreement with HEABC and such agreement will not be unreasonably withheld.

## **APPENDIX A.5**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

#### **EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE BENEFIT**

Notwithstanding the current ERIB provision contained in the Collective Agreement, the parties agree to enhance and support efforts to increase the uptake of ERIB by eligible employees.

It is agreed that:

The Union will be provided with the information necessary in order to contact potentially eligible employees, three months prior to their earliest possible eligibility.

The Union will contact employees on the list referenced above to explain how the ERIB provision works and to encourage employees to provide the necessary authorization to determine their eligibility.

Employees who apply for ERIB may choose to continue to maintain the Extended Health benefit plan (excluding MSP and Dental) coverage to age sixty-five (65). The premiums will be cost shared by the employer and the employee on a 50-50 basis provided the employee pays their portion of the premium for such coverage in advance on a monthly basis (see Appendix A, Section B, 5.2 and Appendix C Section 1 (B)).

In order to expedite the processing of ERIB applications, it is further agreed that ERIB packages will be prepared and sent out at least four times per year, timing to be determined by mutual agreement of the parties.

## **APPENDIX A.6**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE – PERMANENT ACCOMMODATIONS**

The parties agree that the long-term health of injured and disabled employees' benefits from timely and proactive measures to meet their permanent medical restrictions to keep them productively employed, or result in their early return to work. The parties further agree that it may not be possible to accommodate all injured and disabled employees, but where accommodation that does not result in undue hardship is possible, agree that:

- a) Employees shall provide the Employer with appropriate and acceptable medical information that sets out any limitations and/or restrictions in a timely manner.
- b) Once this medical information is accepted and agreed to by the Employer, the accommodation process will begin. Should the medical information indicate that the employee requires a permanent accommodation, the Employer will contact the

employee and union within two (2) weeks to discuss possible accommodation options.

- c) Within four (4) weeks of accepting and agreeing to the provided medical information and receiving confirmation that the employee is fit to return to work as per limitations and restrictions, the Employer will offer the employee transitional work or must begin paying the employee at their previous rate of pay. Transitional work may include various nursing duties, access to education funds to upgrade skills or special projects.
- d) Accommodation agreements/plans for employees requiring a permanent accommodation may be reviewed periodically by the Employer.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES REGARDING APPLICATION OF SECTION B – 7.4 OF THE ENHANCED DISABILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

This is the language of Don Munroe's consent award from 2003 and is current practice in the event of a retroactive award for CPP and WCB benefits.

The parties mutually agree as follows:

1. If a disabled employee becomes entitled to other disability income, such as a WCB or CPP award, as a result of the same accident, sickness, or illness for which they are eligible and entitled to receive LTD benefits under the LTD Plan, then the LTD Plan is entitled to be repaid up to 100% of the amount of the LTD benefits paid to the claimants as of the effective date the claimant first receives the other disability income for periods of overlapping entitlement;
2. The LTD Plan is entitled to integrate retroactive awards of other disability income. The integration of retroactive awards will be calculated from the commencement date of the retroactive period (i.e. the date benefit entitlement commenced), or the commencement date of the LTD benefits payable (i.e. the day after the qualification period), whichever date is later;

3. The amount recoverable by the LTD Plan will be based on the amount of the other (e.g. WCB or CPP) monthly disability benefit payable at the commencement date of the retroactive period of the award or at the commencement date of the LTD benefit, whichever is later. The amount will be determined by a “month-to-month” calculation (e.g. the amount of the other monthly disability income benefit payable, times the number of months that overlap with the LTD benefit period) and will be based on the monthly benefit that is being paid by the other disability income provider at the commencement date of the overlapping period, except as provided herein;
4. Any indexing of the other disability monthly benefit payable (except the monthly benefit amount of commuted pensions referred to in paragraph 7 below) will not be included for integration except where, after the commencement date of the overlapping period of integration, the LTD benefit payable under the LTD Plan is increased due to an indexing provision of the LTD Plan (e.g. cost of living adjustment or a recalculation of the LTD benefit payable based on the current wage rate applicable to the disabled employee’s own job at the date of disability). In that event, the increase in the other disability monthly income, as a result of indexing, will be integrated as at the date the LTD benefit is increased due to indexing. In the event that the indexing factor applicable to increase the LTD benefit payable under the LTD Plan is lower than the indexing factor of the other disability income provider, the LTD Plan will use the lower indexing factor to determine the amount of the other disability indexed income that is to be integrated with the LTD benefit. Commuted pension awards will be addressed as provided in paragraph 7 below;
5. The LTD Plan will be entitled to recover a portion of any interest awarded by the other disability income provider on the sum referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, that is, the amount that is applicable to the retroactive portion of the award that is owed to the LTD Plan. The method of determining the amount of interest owed to the LTD Plan will either be calculated using the interest formula of the other disability income provider or, if the same result, a pro-ration of the actual interest amount paid by the other disability income provider based on the portion of the amount paid by the other disability

- income provider that is owed to the LTD Plan as per paragraph 3 and 4 above;
6. The amount of the retroactive award that is owed to the LTD Plan will be discounted by 10%, provided that the full amount owed to the LTD Plan is paid within six (6) months from the date of the award;
  7. In the case of commuted lump sum pension awards, the LTD Plan will be entitled to reduce the amount of the future monthly LTD benefits paid by the monthly amount of the other benefit that has been commuted i.e. the monthly amount is the amount paid by the other disability income provider at the date of the commutation, or the commencement date of the retroactive period of the award, or the date of the commencement of the LTD benefit, whichever is later;
  8. A proportionate share of any legal fees and disbursements personally incurred by the LTD claimant in obtaining disability income, and for which the claimant will not otherwise be indemnified, will be deducted from the amount owing to the LTD Plan. Fifty percent of the cost of a medical-legal report used in obtaining other disability income will also be deducted provided that the LTD claimant personally incurs the cost of the report, the report is shared with the claims paying agent for the LTD plan, and the claimant will not otherwise be indemnified for the cost of the report;
  9. Should there be any future change to legislation (including the implementation of Bill 49), collective agreements, or policy that affects all sources of the disability income of LTD claimants, the parties that the above-noted principles can be re-considered upon due notice by one party to the other;
  10. The British Columbia Nurses' Union agree to advise their members of their members' obligation to repay the LTD Plan in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and any Consent Arbitration Award which incorporates the terms of this Agreement.

**APPENDIX C**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE PLANS**  
**(date of disability prior to April 1, 2011)**

The Union and the HEABC agree that the long-term disability insurance plan shall be governed by the terms and conditions set forth below. This amended Plan is effective April 1, 1999.

- Explanatory Note: There are two effective dates for defining “existing claimants” (April 1, 1998 and April 1, 1999). For employees previously covered by the HEABC/BCNU Master Agreement provisions underwritten by the Healthcare Benefit Trust (“HBT”), an “existing claimant” is defined as an employee with a date of disability or injury that occurred prior to April 1, 1998. For all other employees, the definition of an “existing claimant” is defined as an employee with a date of disability or injury that occurred prior to April 1, 1999. For the latter group of employees, wherever the dates “April 1, 1998” and “March 31, 1998” are found in the Memorandum, substitute them with the dates found immediately following them in parentheses: “(April 1, 1999)” and “(March 31, 1999)”, respectively.

**Section 1 – Eligibility**

- (A) Regular full-time and regular part-time employees who are on staff January 1, 1981 or who join the staff following this date shall, upon completion of the three-month probationary period, become members of the Long-Term Disability Plan as a condition of employment.
- (B) Seniority and Benefits – Seniority accumulation and benefit entitlement for employees on long-term disability shall be consistent with the following provisions (reference 13.03(G)):

Any employee granted unpaid leave of absence totalling up to twenty (20) work days in any year shall continue to accumulate seniority and all benefits and shall return to their former job and increment step.

If an unpaid leave of absence or an accumulation of unpaid leaves of absence exceeds twenty (20) work days in any year, the employee shall not accumulate benefits from the

twenty-first (21st) day of the unpaid leave to the last day of the unpaid leave but shall accumulate benefits and receive credit for previously earned benefits upon expiration of the unpaid leave.

Upon return to work following recovery, an employee who was on claim for less than twenty-four (24) months shall continue in their former job; an employee who was on claim for more than twenty-four (24) months shall return to an equivalent position, exercising their seniority rights if necessary, pursuant to Article 13 and Article 19. Employees on long-term disability who have exhausted all sick leave credits and in addition have been granted twenty (20) work days unpaid leave shall be covered by the Medical, Extended Health Care, and Dental Plans provided they pay the total premiums for such coverage in advance on a monthly basis. Employees may choose to maintain any or all of such plans. Effective April 1, 1999, premiums for Medical, Dental, and Extended Health insurance will be cost shared by the Employer and claimant on a 50-50 basis, under the same conditions as outlined above.

Superannuation/Pension – Employees on long-term disability shall be considered employees for the purposes of superannuation/pension in accordance with the *Pension (Municipal) Act* and the *Pension (Public Service) Act*, as applicable.

Group Life Insurance – Employees on long-term disability shall have their group life insurance premiums waived and coverage under the Group Term Life Insurance Plan shall be continued.

## **Section 2 – Waiting Period and Benefits**

- (A) **“Existing Claimants”** – Employees Disabled Prior to April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999)\*

(\*See Explanatory Note in Preamble to this Memorandum)

In the event an employee, while enrolled in this Plan, becomes totally disabled prior to April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999) as a result of an accident or a sickness, then, after the employee has been totally disabled for six (6) months the employee shall receive a benefit equal to two-thirds (2/3) of monthly earnings.



(1) Supplemental Monthly LTD Benefit (“SMB”)

(B) **“New Claimants”** – Employees Disabled on or after April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999)\*

(\*See Explanatory Note in Preamble to this Memorandum)

(1) In the event an employee, while enrolled in this Plan, becomes totally disabled on or after April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999) as a result of an accident or sickness, then, after the employee has been totally disabled for five (5) months the employee shall receive a benefit equal to seventy percent (70%) of the first \$4000 of the pre-disability monthly earnings and fifty percent (50%) on the pre-disability monthly earnings above \$4000 or 66-2/3% of pre-disability monthly earnings, whichever is more. The \$4000 level is to be increased annually by the increase in the weighted average wage rate for employees under the collective agreement for the purpose of determining the benefit amount for eligible employees as at their date of disability.

It is understood that this adjustment will only be applied once for each eligible employee, i.e., at the date of the disability, to determine the benefit amount to be paid prospectively for the duration of entitlement to benefits under the LTD plan.

(2) In the event that the benefit falls below the amount set out in Section 2(B)(1) above for the job that the claimant was in at the time of commencement of receipt of benefits, LTD benefits to be adjusted prospectively to seventy percent (70%) of the first \$4000 of the current monthly earnings and fifty percent (50%) on the current monthly earnings above \$4000 or 66-2/3% of current monthly earnings, whichever is more based on the wage rate in effect following review by HBT/underwriter every four years. (Note: the \$4000 figure will be adjusted as set out in Section 2(B)(1) above).

(C) **All Claimants**

For the purposes of the above, earnings shall mean basic monthly earnings (including isolation allowances where ap-

plicable) as at the date of disability. Basic monthly earnings for regular part-time employees shall be calculated on the basis of the employee's average monthly hours of work for the twelve-month period or such shorter period that the employee has been employed, prior to the date of disability, multiplied by their hourly pay rate as at the date of disability.

The long-term disability benefit payment shall be made so long as an employee remains totally disabled and shall cease on the date the employee reaches age sixty-five (65), recovers, dies, or is eligible for early retirement, whichever occurs first.

**(D) Employees who still have unused sick leave credits after the waiting period when the long-term disability benefit becomes payable shall have the option of:**

- (1) exhausting all sick leave credits before receiving the long-term disability benefit;
- (2) using sick leave credits to top off the long-term disability benefit; or
- (3) banking the unused sick leave credits for future use.

**(E) Employment status during the intervening period between expiration of sick leave credits and receipt of long-term disability benefits:**

Employees who will be eligible for benefits under the Long-Term Disability Plan shall not have their employment terminated; following expiration of their sick leave credits they shall be placed on unpaid leave of absence until receipt of long-term disability benefits.

- (F) Employees are not to be terminated for non-culpable absenteeism, while in receipt of long-term disability benefits.**

### **Section 3 – Total Disability Defined**

**(A) “Existing Claimants” – Employees Disabled Prior to April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999)\***

(\*See Explanatory Note in Preamble to this Memorandum)

Total disability, as used in this Plan, means the complete inability because of an accident or sickness, of a covered em-

ployee to perform the duties of their own occupation for the first two (2) years of disability. Thereafter, an employee who is able by reason of education, training, or experience to perform the duties of any gainful occupation for which the rate of pay equals or exceeds eighty-five percent (85%) of the rate of pay of their regular occupation at date of disability shall no longer be considered totally disabled and therefore, shall not continue to be eligible for benefits under this Long-Term Disability Plan.

(B) **“New Claimants” – Employees Disabled on or After April 1, 1998 (April 1, 1999)\***

(\*See Explanatory Note in Preamble to this Memorandum)

Total Disability, as used in this Plan, means the complete inability because of an accident or sickness, of a covered employee to perform the duties of their own occupation for the first two (2) years of disability. Thereafter, an employee who is able by reason of education, training, or experience to perform the duties of any gainful occupation for which the rate of pay equals or exceeds seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of disability shall no longer be considered totally disabled under the Plan. However, the employee may be eligible for a Residual Monthly Disability Benefit.

(1) **Residual Monthly Disability Benefit**

The Residual Monthly Disability Benefit is based on eighty-five percent (85%) of their rate of pay at the date of the disability less the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that the employee is able to perform. The Residual Monthly Disability Benefit will continue until the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that the employee is able to perform equals or exceeds eighty-five percent (85%) of the rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of the disability. The benefit is calculated using the employee’s monthly LTD net of offsets benefit and the percentage difference between the eighty-five percent (85%) of the employee’s rate of pay at the date of

disability and the rate of pay (the minimum being equal to seventy percent (70%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation) applicable to any gainful occupation that they are able to perform.

**Example:**

- (a) Monthly LTD net of offsets benefit = \$1000.00 per month
- (b) 85% rate of pay at date of disability = \$13.60 per hour
- (c) 70% of current rate of pay = \$12.12 per hour
- (d) percentage difference  $[(b/c) - 1] = 12.2\%$
- (e) Residual Monthly Disability Benefit  $(a \times d) = \$122.00$

**(C) All Claimants**

- (1) Total disabilities resulting from mental or nervous disorders are covered by the Plan in the same manner as total disabilities resulting from accidents or other sicknesses, except that an employee who is totally disabled as a result of a mental or nervous disorder and who has received twenty-four (24) months of Long-Term Disability Plan benefit payments must be confined to a hospital or mental institution or, where they are at home, under the direct care and supervision of a medical doctor, in order to continue to be eligible for benefit payments.

- (2) During a period of total disability an employee must be under the regular and personal care of a legally qualified doctor of medicine.

**(3) Commitment to Rehabilitation**

In the event that an employee is medically able to participate in a rehabilitation activity or program that:

- (a) can be expected to facilitate their return to their own job or other gainful occupation; and
- (b) is recommended by HBT/underwriter and approved as a Rehabilitation Plan, then,

the entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan will continue for the duration of the Approved Re-

habilitation Plan as long as they continue to participate and cooperate in the Rehabilitation Plan. If the Plan involves a change in own occupation, the LTD benefit period will continue at least until the end of the first two (2) years of disability. In addition, the employee may be eligible for the Rehabilitation Benefit Incentive Provision.

The Rehabilitation Plan will be jointly determined by the employee (and, if the employee chooses, their Union) and HBT/underwriter. In considering whether or not a rehabilitation plan is appropriate, such factors as the expected duration of disability, and the level of activity required to facilitate the earliest return to a gainful occupation will be considered along with all other relevant criteria. A rehabilitation plan may include training. Once the Rehabilitation Plan has been determined, the employee and the HBT/underwriter will jointly sign the Terms of the Rehabilitation Plan which will, thereby, become the Approved Rehabilitation Plan and the employee's entitlement to benefits under the LTD plan shall continue until the successful completion of the Approved Rehabilitation Plan, provided the eligible employee is willing to participate and cooperate in the Approved Rehabilitation Plan. In addition, the employee may be eligible for any, or all, of the Rehabilitation Benefit Incentive Provisions.

**(4) Rehabilitation Review Committee**

- (a) In the event that the eligible employee does not agree:
  - (i) with the recommended rehabilitation plan, or,
  - (ii) that they are medically able to participate and cooperate in the Rehabilitation Plan as defined in the Terms of the Rehabilitation Plan, then, to ensure benefit entitlement under the LTD Plan, the employee must either:

- (iii) be able to demonstrate reasonable grounds for being unable to participate and cooperate in a rehabilitation plan; or,
  - (iv) appeal the dispute to the Rehabilitation Review Committee for a resolution.
- (b) During the appeal process, the employee's benefit entitlement under the LTD Plan shall not be suspended.

The Rehabilitation Review Committee shall be composed of three qualified individuals who, by education, training, and experience are recognized specialists in the rehabilitation of disabled employees. The Committee shall be composed of three (3) individuals chosen on a rotating basis from a list of rehabilitation specialists mutually acceptable to the parties. The purpose of the Rehabilitation Review Committee shall be to resolve the appeal of an eligible employee who:

- (i) does not agree with the recommended Rehabilitation Plan; or,
- (ii) does not agree that they could medically participate in the Rehabilitation Plan.

During the appeal process, the eligible employee's entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall continue until the Committee has made its decision. The decision of the Committee shall determine whether or not the eligible employee is required to participate and cooperate in the Rehabilitation Plan approved by the Committee. In the event that the eligible employee does not accept the Committee's decision, their entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall be suspended until such time as the eligible employee is willing to participate and cooperate in the Approved Rehabilitation Plan.

**(5) Rehabilitation Benefit Incentive Provisions**

- (a) An employee who has been unable to work due to illness or injury and who subsequently is determined to be medically able to:
- (i) return to work on a gradual or part-time basis;
  - (ii) engage in a physical rehabilitation activity; and/or
  - (iii) engage in a vocational retraining program.
- shall be eligible for any, or all, of the Rehabilitation Benefit Incentive Provision.
- (b) The intent of the Provision is to assist the employee with a return to a gainful occupation. In many situations, an employee who returns to work by participating and co-operating in an Approved Rehabilitation Plan will be able to increase their monthly earnings above the LTD benefit amount. The objective of the Rehabilitation Benefit Incentive Provision is to promote the successful completion of the Rehabilitation as follows:
- (i) The employee, who upon return to gainful rehabilitative employment under an Approved Rehabilitation Plan, will be entitled to receive all monthly rehabilitation earnings plus a monthly LTD benefit up to the amount set out in Section 2(A) or (B) (as the case may be) of the Addendum, provided that the total of such income does not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the current rate of pay for their regular occupation at the date of the disability;
  - (ii) Upon successful completion of the Approved Rehabilitation Plan, the employee becomes an automatic candidate for all job postings with the Employer, and shall have the ability to bump under the collective

agreement for positions that the employee is qualified and physically capable of performing;

- (iii) Upon successful completion of the Approved Rehabilitation Plan, the LTD benefit period may be extended for a maximum of six (6) months for the purpose of job search; and
- (iv) The eligible employee shall be entitled to participate in the Job Exploration and Development program.

“Rehabilitative employment” shall mean any occupation or employment for wage or profit or any course or training that entitles the disabled employee to an allowance, provided such rehabilitative employment has the approval of the employee’s doctor and the underwriter of the Plan.

If earnings are received by an employee during a period of total disability and if such earnings are derived from employment which has not been approved as rehabilitative employment, then the regular monthly benefit from the Plan shall be reduced by one hundred percent (100%) of such earnings.

**(6) Joint Rehabilitation Improvement Committee**

During the term of the agreement, one (1) person from HEABC and one (1) person from the HBT shall meet the two (2) representatives of the Nurses’ Bargaining Association. The parties will work together to improve the Rehabilitation Process.

The Committee will have access to all relevant information available to the Trust to determine the cost savings experienced by the LTD Plan as a result of the Rehabilitation Provisions.



## **Section 4 – Exclusions from Coverage**

The Long-Term Disability Plan does not cover total disabilities resulting from:

- (A) war, insurrection, rebellion, or service in the armed forces of any country;
- (B) voluntary participation in a riot or civil commotion, except while an employee is in the course of performing the duties of their regular occupation;
- (C) intentionally self-inflicted injuries or illness.

## **Section 5 – Integration with other Disability Income**

In the event a totally disabled employee is entitled to any other income as a result of the same accident, sickness, mental or nervous disorder that caused them to be eligible to receive benefits from this Plan, the benefits from this Plan shall be reduced by one hundred percent (100%) of such other disability income.

If other disability income is available to the employee, they must apply for this income prior to receiving LTD.

Other disability income shall include but is not limited to:

- (A) any amount payable under any Workers' Compensation Act or law or any other legislation of similar purpose; and
- (B) any amount the disabled employee receives from any group insurance, wage continuation, or pension plan of the Employer that provides disability income; and
- (C) any amount of disability income provided by a compulsory act or law; and
- (D) any periodic primary benefit payment from the Canada or Quebec Pension Plans or other similar social security plan of any country to which the disabled employee is entitled or to which they would be entitled had they applied for such a benefit; and
- (E) any amount of disability income provided by any group or association disability plan to which the disabled employee might belong to or subscribe.

Private or individual disability plan benefits of the disabled employee shall not reduce the benefit from this Plan.

The amount by which the disability benefit from this Plan is reduced by other disability income shall be the amount to which the disabled employee is entitled upon becoming first eligible for such other disability income. Future increases in such other disability income resulting from increases in the Canadian Consumer Price Index or similar indexing arrangements shall not further reduce the benefit from this Plan until the LTD benefit payable is recalculated to reflect current wage rates [Reference 2(B)(2)].

### **Section 6 – Successive Disabilities**

If, following a period of total disability with respect to which benefits are paid from this Plan, an employee returns to work for a continuous period of six (6) months or more, any subsequent total disability suffered by that employee, whether related to the preceding disability or not, shall be considered a new disability and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments after the completion of another waiting period.

In the event the period during which such an employee has returned to work is less than six (6) months and the employee again suffers a total disability that is related to the preceding disability, the subsequent disability shall be deemed a continuation of the preceding disability, and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments without the necessity of completing another waiting period.

Should such an employee suffer a subsequent disability that is unrelated to the previous disability and provided the period during which the employee returned to work is longer than one (1) month, the subsequent disability shall be considered a new disability and the employee shall be entitled to benefit payments after the completion of another waiting period. If the period during which the employee returned to work is one (1) month or less, the subsequent disability shall be deemed a continuation of the preceding disability and the disabled employee shall be entitled to benefit payments without the necessity of completing another waiting period.

### **Section 7 – Leave of Absence**

Employees on leave of absence without pay may opt to retain coverage under the Plan and shall pay the full premium. Coverage

shall be permitted for a period of twelve (12) months of absence without pay, except if such leave is for educational purposes, when the maximum period shall be extended to two (2) years. If an employee on leave of absence without pay becomes disabled, their allowance under this Plan shall be based upon monthly earnings immediately prior to the leave of absence.

## **Section 8 – Benefits Upon Plan Termination**

In the event this Long-Term Disability Plan is terminated, the benefit payments shall continue to be paid in accordance with the provisions of this Plan to disabled employees who became disabled while covered by this Plan prior to its termination.

## **Section 9 – Premiums**

The cost of this Plan shall be borne by the Employer. Payment of premiums shall cease on termination of employment or five (5) months prior to an employee's sixty-fifth (65th) birthday, whichever occurs first.

## **Section 10 – Waiver of Premiums**

The premiums of this Plan shall be waived with respect to disabled employees during the time such an employee is in receipt of disability benefit payments from this Plan.

## **Section 11 – Claims**

Long-term disability claims shall be adjudicated and paid by a claims-paying agent to be appointed by the Trustee. The claims-paying agent shall provide toll free telephone access to claimants. In the event a covered employee or the Healthcare Benefit Trust/underwriter disputes the decision of the claims-paying agent regarding a claim for benefits under this Plan, the employee or the Healthcare Benefit Trust/underwriter may request that the claim be re-examined by the claims-paying agent. If the employee disputes the decision, the employee may request to have the claim reviewed by a claims review committee comprised of three independent and qualified medical doctors agreed to by the Claims Adjudication Committee.

Written notice of a claim under this Plan shall be sent to the claims-paying agent no longer than forty-five (45) days after the earliest foreseeable commencement date of benefit payments from this Plan or as soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. Failure to furnish the required notice of claim within the time stated shall not invalidate

nor reduce the claim if it was not reasonably possible to file the required notice within such time, provided the notice is furnished no later than six (6) months from the time notice of claim is otherwise required.

### **Claims Adjudication Committee**

During the term of the Agreement, one person from HEABC and one person from the HBT shall meet with two (2) representatives of the Nurses Bargaining Association. The parties will work together to improve the claims adjudication process.

The Committee will arrange to have an information brochure prepared to explain detailed procedures for claims submissions, re-examination and decision review by the medical panel.

### **Section 12 – Administration**

The Employer shall administer and be the sole trustee of the Plan. The Union shall have access to any reports provided by the claims-paying agent regarding experience information.

All questions arising as to the interpretation of this Plan shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures in Articles 9 and 10 of the Provincial Collective Agreement.

### **Section 13 – Provincial Collective Agreement Unprejudiced**

The terms of the Plan set out above shall not prejudice the application or interpretation of the Provincial Collective Agreement.

### **Section 14 – LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Provision**

The LTD Plan ERIB is to ensure that the eligible employee will not realize a pension benefit that is less than the pension benefit that they would have been entitled to receive at the normal retirement date, had they not applied for early retirement, regardless of when the early retirement incentive provision is activated.

- (A) An employee under this Agreement who is:
- (1) eligible for, or who is receiving LTD benefits, or in the case of claimants under Section 2(A), eligible for, or who has been in receipt of LTD for four (4) years or more;
  - (2) eligible for early retirement pension benefits; and

- (3) not eligible for the LTD Plan Rehabilitation Provisions shall apply for early retirement.

The employee's entitlement to benefits under the LTD Plan shall, provided the employee remains eligible as per the definition of Total Disability, continue during the period of time that their application for early retirement is being processed with their pension plan administrator. In the event that the employee is not eligible for an unreduced pension benefit, they may still be eligible for the LTD Plan Early Retirement LTD Incentive Benefit.

- (B) Entitlement to and the amount of the LTD Plan ERIB shall be determined by considering the following factors:
  - (1) the amount of the monthly pension benefit that the employee would have been entitled to receive if early retirement was not elected;
  - (2) the amount of the monthly early retirement benefit that the employee will receive;
  - (3) the amount of the gross monthly LTD benefit that the employee is entitled to receive;
  - (4) the amount of the net-of-offsets monthly LTD benefit that the employee is entitled to receive; and,
  - (5) the maximum LTD benefit duration period applicable to the employee.

If the combination of superannuation benefit, Canada Pension Plan retirement benefit and any other disability income referred to in Section 5 of the LTD Addendum results in monthly income of less than the LTD monthly income benefit, then the eligible employee shall be entitled to remain on LTD benefits.

- (C) An employee who is eligible for the LTD Plan ERIB shall be entitled to receive the benefit in a lump sum, or direct the Healthcare Benefit Trust to any other designate. The employee shall complete an LTD Plan ERIB Application. Upon approval of the employee's application, the employee and the Healthcare Benefit Trust will jointly sign the Terms of the LTD Plan ERIB and the employee and the members of the Joint

LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Committee shall sign the LTD Plan Early Retirement Incentive Agreement on behalf of the parties to the Collective Agreement.

- (D) All eligible employees who are entitled to the LTD Plan ERIB shall be entitled to the continuation of the Life Benefit coverage in effect until sixty-five (65) years of age, or death, whichever is earlier.
- (E) Joint Early Retirement Improvement Committee

Within six (6) months of the ratification of this agreement, one (1) person from HEABC and one (1) person from the HBT shall meet with two (2) representatives of the Nurses' Bargaining Association. The parties will work together to improve the early retirement incentive process.

The Committee will have access to all relevant information available to the Trust to determine the cost savings experienced by the LTD Plan as a result of the Early Retirement Incentive Provisions.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PROVINCIAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The parties share a common interest in preventing workplace injuries and promoting safe and healthy workplaces at all worksites, throughout the health care sector.

The parties acknowledge the need for a provincially coordinated and integrated effort to improve the health and safety of health care workers and to establish systems to implement the shared objectives below:

- Promote a safe and healthy work environment and organizational safety culture through prevention of injury initiatives, safe workloads, promotion of safer work practices and healthy workforces, including pilot and demonstration programs;
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of injuries (physical and psychological) and occupational diseases;

- Support the adoption of leading (best) practices, programs or models;
- Facilitate co-operation between unions and employers on health and safety issues;
- Facilitate and provide education and training for effective functioning of local Joint Occupational Health and Safety committees;
- Share information, data, and experience across the sector;
- Improve awareness of and compliance with *Workers Compensation Act*, Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and relevant physical and psychological standards; and
- Support the implementation of Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards for Occupational Health and Safety Management and Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace.

And where as the BC Health Care Occupational Health and Safety Society (currently known as SWITCH BC) was jointly established in November 2020 to provide the organizational basis for an innovative and collaborative initiative to influence, invest in and support province wide initiatives to improve health care worker health and safety. SWITCH BC was built on the following principles:

- Broad stakeholder engagement in governance;
- Collaborative approach;
- Transparency;
- Evidence based decision making; and
- Accountability/Commitment (Compliance).

Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties commit to support SWITCH BC in carrying on with occupational health and safety projects previously agreed to in support of the healthcare sector.
2. In the event of the dissolution of SWITCH BC for any reason, the parties will meet to discuss an alternative provincial occupational health and safety structure.

3. Per Appendix A.1, HEABC will contribute a sum of \$1,290,000 per annum to the NBA for occupational health and safety initiatives. The NBA may use all or part of the funding allocated to it to contribute towards provincial projects undertaken by SWITCH BC, or the NBA may choose to use all or part of this funding to, in conjunction with the member Employers and HEABC, identify and address initiatives specific to the NBA.



**APPENDIX E**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**Between:**

**Health Employers Association of BC (“HEABC”)**

**And:**

**Nurses’ Bargaining Association (“NBA”)**

**And:**

**Ministry of Health (“MOH”)**

**(collectively, “the Parties”)**

**WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**Preamble – Developing a Provincial Policy Framework**

- The Ministry of Health, Health Authorities and Affiliates are committed to the prevention of violence in health care workplaces in the province of British Columbia.
- It is recognized that health care workers are vulnerable to violence because they provide care directly to members of the public across all settings, including hospitals, care homes and in the community, often in high stress situations.
- Violence prevention is a complex issue requiring partnership among multiple stakeholders, and while legislation, regulation and operational policies and protocols are in place, and there are a number of improvement activities underway in the health system, the Ministry is committed to developing a coherent and focused provincial framework by early September to:
  - o Provide clear and consistently applied policy direction including requirements for contracted services, including protection services for medium and high risk service areas;
  - o Establish clear roles and accountabilities amongst the Ministry, Health Authorities, Affiliates, WorkSafeBC, and Health Employers Association of BC (HEABC);
  - o Implement system wide reporting, oversight and compliance monitoring; and,

- o Establish practical partnerships with key stakeholders, including unions and associations, to create healthy and safe workplaces for health care providers.
- The Ministry is reviewing relevant literature and best practices, and will consult and seek input from key stakeholders during spring 2016. Specifically with respect to this MOU, the Ministry of Health will in collaboration with the NBA facilitate a one day working session in May with RN, RPN, and LPN representatives from hospital, facility (including long term care) and community programs to seek input and feedback on the framework.
- The policy framework will be completed and fully endorsed by Leadership Council in October 2016. It will form the basis for clear and specific policy direction from the Ministry to health authorities to be provided no later than December 31, 2016.
- The framework and policy direction will be fully incorporated into Ministry and health authority planning and accountability documents effective April 1, 2017.

### **Policy Framework Focus**

- The policy framework will be comprehensive in scope, will build on prevention related activities and initiatives previously completed or underway and identify Ministry expectations for violence prevention activities at provincial, regional and local levels.
- The policy framework will clarify and set expectations for health authority/affiliate provided and contracted services on:
  - o Categories or types of health care workplaces based on assessed risk with associated prevention policies and actions;
  - o Roles, Responsibilities, and Accountabilities;
  - o Education and Training Requirements (including time-lines):
    - Requirements for all employees
    - Requirements for staff working in community programs

- Requirements for staff working in designated medium and high risk sites
- Requirements will cover new hires, movement between locations, refresh training and on-going skills practice
- o Emergency Response Requirements including use of Code White Teams, Safety and Security Officers, and the involvement of appropriate staff in physical interventions;
- o Setting admission and exclusion criteria;
- o Communications Protocols including a standardized provincial violence assessment tool and provincial policies for applying, reassessing and communicating alerts and associated care plans;
- o Safety Equipment;
- o Physical Environment (new builds and existing sites or units);
- o Critical Incident Stress Support;
- o Measurement, Monitoring and Reporting.
- These areas will structure the focus of the working session in May and provide the opportunity for the NBA to seek a broader range of input from their members in advance of the session.

### **Immediate Action**

- The Ministry will work collaboratively with the HEABC, Health Authorities, Affiliates, and the NBA to take a number of immediate steps to further improve violence prevention, including:
  - o The Ministry of Health will assign a lead manager for Prevention of Violence in the Workplace from the Health Sector Workforce Division to provide a sustained focus on this key area and provide a direct liaison for unions to address any emerging concerns or issues.
  - o The Ministry will require interim quarterly violence prevention compliance reporting for 2016 – 2017. The report

requirements will be established by June 30 with reports required for the subsequent three periods: July – September 2016, October – December 2016, January – March 2017. Reports will be submitted no later than 30 days after the close of these periods and will be made available to the NBA. Thereafter compliance reporting will be provided quarterly at these same intervals.

- o Evaluating and continuing to build on progress in the four priority sites identified for targeted action in 2016 (Hillside, Forensics, Abbotsford, Seven Oaks); this will include jointly identifying and taking targeted action in six additional priority sites that the Parties will collaboratively identify on the ratification of this agreement, with the Ministry and NBA to each contribute \$2 million for these additional sites.

- o The Ministry of Health will review and then ensure Health Authorities have established effective Security/Safety Officer protocols at the following designated high risk/high priority Emergency Rooms sites:

- See Appendix A

It is understood that these protocols will ensure that security/safety officers for these sites are appropriately trained for healthcare setting and specifically trained to be hands on during an advanced team response. Safety officers will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The review and plans for taking any required action will be completed by September 1, 2016 and made available to the NBA.

- o The Ministry of Health will review health authority and affiliate (with the assistance of health authorities and HEABC) violence prevention plans for the following high/ medium risk tertiary mental health sites:

- See Appendix B

This will include an evaluation of the implementation status of measures and procedures aimed at prevent-

ing, controlling and minimizing the risk of workplace violence.

The review and plans for taking any required action will be completed by September 1, 2016 and made available to the NBA.

- o The Ministry of Health will ensure health authorities and affiliates (with the assistance of health authorities and HEABC) undertake a gap analysis in consultation with the NBA on Violence Prevention and Code White training for designated high and medium risk sites in accordance with requirements developed by the Provincial Occupational Health and Safety and Violence Prevention Committee. The analysis will be reported to the Ministry of Health and the NBA by August 31, 2016 with a detailed plan to close any gaps in training starting October 1, 2016 and to be completed no later than June 30, 2017.
- o The Ministry of Health will review critical incident support practices and resources across health authorities. The review and plans for taking any required action will be completed by September 1, 2016 and made available to the NBA.
- This Memorandum of Agreement does not change any statutory obligations of the Employer nor limit the Union's right to grieve violations of the Collective Agreement with respect to Occupational Health and Safety.

## **APPENDIX A – Emergency Rooms**

Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre

Burnaby Hospital

Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC (Assessment Room)

Chilliwack General Hospital

Kelowna General Hospital

Langley Memorial Hospital

Lions Gate Hospital

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital  
Peace Arch District Hospital  
Penticton Regional Hospital  
Richmond Hospital  
Royal Columbian Hospital  
Royal Inland Hospital  
Royal Jubilee Hospital  
St. Paul's Hospital  
Surrey Memorial Hospital  
University Hospital of Northern British Columbia  
Vancouver General Hospital  
Vernon Jubilee Hospital  
Victoria General Hospital

## **APPENDIX B – Tertiary Mental Health**

Aberdeen House  
ACT Teams  
Alder Unit at Langara campus – VCH  
Apple Lane  
Arbutus Place  
Bastion Place  
BC Children's Hospital/Women's (CAPE, Heartwood, Fir Square)  
BC Psychosis Unit  
Braemore Lodge  
Bulkley Lodge  
Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction  
Cara Center  
Cedar Ridge

Connolly Lodge  
Cottonwood Lodge  
Country Squire  
Cowichan Lodge  
Cypress Lodge  
Dawson Creek Tertiary Acute Program  
Detwiller Pavilion/UBC  
Forensic Psychiatric Hospital/Regional Forensics Clinics  
FW Green Memorial House  
Glengarry Transitional Care Unit  
Harbour House/KBRH  
Hillside Center – Interior Health Adult Psychiatric Center  
Hilltop House  
Iris House  
Kelowna General Hospital – Adolescent Psychiatric Unit  
Kelowna General Hospital – Tertiary Unit  
Lodge on 4th  
McBride Manor  
Memorial Cottage  
North Peace Care Centre  
Oceanside  
Polson Special  
Royal Jubilee Hospital  
Seven Oaks Tertiary  
Seven Sisters  
South Hills Psychiatric Campus  
St. Joseph's General Hospital  
St. Paul's Hospital

Sumac Place  
Tamarack Cottage  
Timber Creek  
Trout Lake  
Willow Pavilion  
Youville Residence

## **APPENDIX F**

### **RESILIENCY EDUCATION**

HEABC and NBA agree that there is a benefit to providing resiliency education to employees that work in high-trauma units or departments and in the community.

HEABC and NBA will develop a single provincial resiliency education for employees that work in high-trauma units, departments, programs and worksites.

The parties acknowledge that the BCNU has been operating resiliency workshops successfully for the past year and will continue to do so while the parties develop a joint program. BCNU will provide HEABC with its model resiliency education curriculum, which it will consider.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ADDRESSING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND RESPECT IN THE HEALTH WORKPLACE**

The parties recognize that it is important to provide an environment that is properly secure for all those who receive health services or who work in health care. A safe environment is important for staff and contributes to providing the highest possible standard of care. Staff should expect to work in, and patients should expect to be treated in, an environment where the risk of violence is minimized.

#### **Violence Prevention Program**

Each Health Authority will establish a joint violence prevention program or review their existing program where one is in place that will include:



- (i) Creation of a regional violence prevention sub-committee to develop control measures and provide guidelines to local Joint Health and Safety Committees and to compile an annual regional report of violence prevention activities to the local JOSH Committees;
- (ii) Risk assessments coordinated by the local JOSH Committees and reported to the regional violence prevention subcommittee;
- (iii) Ongoing employee education and training.

### **Towards a Respectful Workplace**

Health Authorities are committed to promoting a work environment in which employees, students, medical staff, physicians, residents, fellows, volunteers, contractors, visitors, patients and clients conduct themselves in a civil, respectful and cooperative manner.

Each Health Authority will publish a clear policy for promoting and maintaining a working environment in which all persons are treated with respect and dignity. These policies will be accessible to staff and users of the health care system regarding expectations and consequences of inappropriate behaviour and violence.

## **APPENDIX H**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **LAI D OFF EMPLOYEES AND EXTERNAL HEALTH AUTHORITY VACANCIES**

Health Authorities commit to provide laid off employees within the health sector who have exhausted their Article 19 rights, with placement into external Health Authority vacancies or, if required, appropriate orientation and education for the scope of practice necessary for safe practice in the acute or community setting.

The parties agree to jointly develop guidelines that will maximize opportunities for laid off nurses through orientation and/or education for those employees.

This process may be enabled through access to the Training/Education Partnership Fund.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **RESPONSIVE SHIFT SCHEDULES (RSS)/ROTATIONS**

Members of HEABC and the Nurses Bargaining Association (NBA) recognize the importance and need to create shift schedules that are responsive to nurses' needs and also meet the operational requirements of a wide variety of work settings.

The parties agree to establish two (2) BCNU RSS positions and two (2) Employer RSS positions. The RSS positions will expand and build upon the successful aspects of the previous RSS initiative identified in Appendix I of the 2010-2012 NBA Collective Agreement. The RSS positions will work with managers and employees to provide education, support and tools to offer a range of responsive shift scheduling options that meet operational requirements.

These responsive scheduling options may include:

- collaborative shared master rotations;
- individual line rotations;
- self-scheduling;
- responsive shift schedules with back-up master rotations.

In addition, the parties agree to develop a new provincial searchable database (the Master Rotation Database) which will act as a provincial repository for approved master work schedules/ rotations.

The primary functions of the RSS positions are as follows:

- to develop and deliver education of the philosophy and benefits of a responsive shift scheduling approach, and skills and tools for staff engagement;
- to assist employers and employees in accessing, designing or implementing any of the responsive scheduling options mentioned above;
- to provide employers and employees with information and guidelines for self-scheduling;
- to enter approved existing and new rotations into the Master Rotation Database; and

- act as a resource for the utilization of the Master Rotation Database.

The funding for the development of the Master Rotation Database, the initial start-up costs associated with this Database, and salary and benefit costs of the BCNU and Employer RSS positions will be allocated out of the remaining \$827,000 funding from the Ministry of Health (the “Funds”). The Master Rotation Database, and the four (4) RSS positions, will continue until the Funds are exhausted.

Within thirty (30) days of ratification of a new Collective Agreement, the parties agree to meet to discuss:

- the specific individual duties and responsibilities of the RSS positions;
- the creation and the hosting of the Master Rotation Database;
- timelines for development and implementation of the Master Rotation Database;
- the utilization of the Master Rotation Database;
- the process to administer, enter and retrieve master work schedules/rotations; and
- governance and evaluation mechanisms.

This Memorandum of Agreement is in effect from the date of ratification of the Collective Agreement until the expiry of the Collective Agreement, unless the parties mutually agree to its extension.

The individuals filling the two BCNU RSS positions will receive compensation and benefits according to their existing classification under the NBA Collective Agreement and be compensated for premiums that would have attached to their regular work schedule.

## **APPENDIX I.1**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **CONSECUTIVE SHIFTS**

The parties acknowledge the importance of fair and equitable master work schedules and recognize that there are employees who would like the opportunity to eliminate or reduce the occurrence of six (6) consecutive shifts.

To that end, the parties have agreed to the following:

- (A) Where a master work schedule contains six (6) consecutive shifts in a block, and the majority of regular employees request a change, in writing, that limits the block to no more than five (5) consecutive shifts:
  - a. The Employer will facilitate the work required in consultation with the employees on the master work schedule to reach agreement on a fair and equitable master rotation that will satisfy the needs of the employees in the same job code on the same master work schedule, meet the requirements of this Agreement, and meet the operational requirements.
  - b. The consultation will include overall consideration of the impact on the master work schedule, including but not limited to the following:
    - i. Shift length;
    - ii. Full-time equivalent;
    - iii. Weekend distribution; and
    - iv. Vacation planning.
- (B) The parties recognize the complexity of this significant change for both the employees and employers. Therefore, we agree that this work will be augmented with the following:
  - a. By April 1, 2019, the Employer will, in collaboration with the NBA, create a standardized process with guidelines for employers and employees.
  - b. Financial costs associated to the elimination of six (6) day rotations will be allocated and administered jointly by HEABC and the NBA. This commitment will be ongoing and shall be allotted to the health employers based upon the actual costs incurred in enabling the change. Funding will be jointly provided as follows:
    - i. \$2 million for 2019/20;
    - ii. \$3 million for 2020/21; and
    - iii. \$4 million for 2021/22 and ongoing.

- c. The NBA and HEABC will allocate \$1,000,000 annually to hire and maintain full time rotation and scheduling officers to assist in facilitating the rotation change.

## **APPENDIX J**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **EXCESSIVE ON-CALL AND CALL-BACK**

The parties recognize that on-call and call-back work is critical to the provision of high quality and timely health care to the patients of British Columbia.

The parties further recognize that being on-call and being called back to work can have an impact on an employee's personal life and that call-backs can negatively impact on the amount and quality of sleep an employee may achieve. Insufficient amounts of sleep may impact employees and may affect patient safety and quality of care.

And whereas the parties recognize that the appropriate use of on-call service and call-backs will contribute to employee health, wellness and quality of life, occupational safety, the provision of safer care for patients and better utilization of health budgets, and these goals are consistent with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement ("IHI") Triple Aim for quality improvement (improved quality or safety, improved provider satisfaction, improved per capita cost of care).

The parties agree that challenges arise from the following:

- Inadequate regularization of call-back hours.
- Appropriate application of call-back as defined in Article 29.05(A) Functions of Employee on Call-Back.
- Vacant positions that result in increased amount of on-call required for remaining employees to cover.
- Excessive reliance on on-call and call-back.

The parties agree that where the Union identifies units/facilities which are faced with one or more of the challenges outlined above, the parties will meet at the local level to resolve the issues within thirty (30) days. The parties agree to the value of using a quality and safety lens in this review and in the revision of standards as may be necessary.

Issues that cannot be resolved will be referred to the Nurse Staffing Secretariat.

**APPENDIX K**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**STAFFING REPLACEMENT**

This Memorandum only applies to Health Authorities and PHC.

**(A) Immediate Staffing Need (Short Term Replacement)**

Staffing requirements are determined by patient care needs and staff scope and skill mix.

Where there are vacancies due to short-term absences, the Employer will make all reasonable efforts to replace those vacancies, except where the in-charge nurse and the manager agree that patient care needs can be met with the scheduled nurses.

The parties agree that in instances where patient care needs exceed the baseline capacity of a unit, department, or program, the Employer will make all reasonable efforts to call in additional nurses as necessary to meet patient care needs.

All reasonable efforts include:

- (i) Regular relief
- (ii) Casual staff
- (iii) Regular part-time staff
- (iv) Staff on overtime
- (v) Re-assign staff, where appropriate

Where reassignment is deemed appropriate within the shift, the Employer shall canvas qualified employees for a volunteer. In the event that no employee volunteers, the Employer may select an employee for reassignment.

Where the Employer reassigns an employee, it will be done in a fair and equitable manner. Employees in relief lines will not be re-assigned any more often than employees who are part of baseline.

Employees assigned to a unit will receive and complete a unit/site specific introduction check-list.

If additional staff are necessary due to emergent circumstances, whether within a particular shift or for the next shift, and no management personnel are on the premises or otherwise immediately accessible to the employee in person or by telephone, the nurse who has been designated in-charge has the authority to call-in additional staff pursuant to any policies in place respecting such call-ins for specific work units. For such call-ins, call in by seniority pursuant to Article 11.04 shall not apply.

Where the Employer has received forty-eight (48) hours' or less notice of a vacancy creating relief work as per Article 11.04(A), the first shift of the vacancy and any remaining shifts in that block may be filled as the Employer deems most efficient.

### **(B) Future and Predictable Staffing Needs (Long Term Replacement)**

The Employer reviews predictable relief needs and makes all reasonable efforts to replace staff on leave except where service levels are reduced. The Employer will determine the need for regular relief and/or advanced hire positions. Other options for future and predictable staffing needs may include temporary postings or temporary appointments pursuant to Article 11.04 and Article 17.

Such leaves include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Vacation
- (ii) Sick leave
- (iii) Union leave
- (iv) Maternity/Parental leave
- (v) Long-term disability

**APPENDIX L**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**STIIP PLANS – PAYOUT OF SICK LEAVE**

For employees previously covered by STIIP plans, the following provisions apply:

Employees working in the public service, the municipalities, GVMHSS, and Terraceview who had their sick leave banks previously frozen due to the implementation of STIIP plans will be permitted to retain those banks on the following basis:

1. The credits accumulated in those banks as of the date the STIIP plan is discontinued will be paid out at 50%, rather than 40%, in accordance with the terms of the Provincial Agreement;
2. A new sick bank will be generated for each employee, which includes amounts calculated pursuant to this Award under point number 7, plus any future accumulations. The payout of this bank shall be at 40% in accordance with the terms of the Provincial Collective Agreement; and
3. Employees who are absent due to sickness shall be required to utilize sick leave credits from the bank outlined in point #1 above, prior to utilization of credits from the bank outlined in point #2 above.

**APPENDIX M**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**JOINT PROVINCIAL HEALTH HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**COORDINATION CENTRE (PHHRCC) –**  
**BARGAINING ASSOCIATION CONSULTATION FORUM**

Social, environmental, demographic, and economic factors are increasing the demand for healthcare within British Columbia. To deliver the required services a skilled and engaged workforce is required. That workforce is integral to a robust, accessible public system with the ability to rapidly respond to key challenges.

The past few years have been a time of unprecedented change and challenge for B.C.'s health workforce. It is important for the system to have a coordinated approach to identify important themes, address challenges, and build upon existing resources to create a sustainable, equitable, and effective healthcare system.



To effectively deliver on this work the Ministry of Health has established a new Provincial Health Human Resources Coordination Centre (PHHRCC) with membership from the Ministry of Health, Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division, regional health authorities, the Provincial Health Services Authority, the Health Employers Association of B.C., and the First Nations Health Authority. The PHHRCC reports to Leadership Council.

The PHHRCC is intended to bring significant focus, attention and discipline to key provincial-level human resource planning activities and initiatives. It will identify strategic actions, develop implementation plans for key approaches, and provide governance, oversight and monitoring of the implementation of these plans. The PHHRCC will look at both intermediate and long-term strategies and actions, as well as address urgent challenges through immediate action, including a focus on supporting Indigenous workers and supporting development of a culturally safe workplace.

In furtherance of the work of the PHHRCC, the Ministry of Health wishes to create a forum for input from Unions. To that end, on a regular basis the Ministry will convene a joint PHHRCC – Bargaining Association consultation forum for the following purposes:

1. Seek input from the Bargaining Associations on evolution and implementation of the Provincial Health Human Resource (HHR) Strategy.
2. Seek input from the Bargaining Associations on issues facing their members with respect to HHR plans, including a specific focus on supporting equity and diversity in the workforce and advancing the recommendations set out through In Plain Sight.
3. Seek input from the Bargaining Associations on specific initiatives and plans, including a specific focus on strategies or actions to support the retention of the workforce, including mental health and wellness
4. Consult with the Bargaining Associations on other initiatives that may be considered by PHHRCC.

PHHRCC acknowledges the mutual covenants binding the Parties (HEABC and the NBA) through the terms and conditions of the Collective Agreement. When enacting activities and initiatives, PHHRCC shall give recognition to the process for amending these terms and conditions.

By October 15, 2023, the Ministry of Health will convene the Forum and present the Terms of Reference for input prior to finalization by the Ministry.

The Ministry intends for this Forum to serve all interested parties in the provincial health care sector, not only the Nurses Subsector. To that end, the Ministry will make efforts to promote participation in the Forum on a provincial and sector-wide basis.

The Ministry of Health shall hold the Forum semi-annually, or more frequently as deemed necessary.

## **APPENDIX N**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ARTICLE 25, 27, 28 & RELATED ARTICLES – COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SECTION, FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES, OVERTIME, SHIFT PREMIUMS**

The Parties agree that the principles contained in the Government of the Province of British Columbia (Northern Interior Health Unit) and BC Nurses' Union (July 19, 1996; Donald Munroe, Q.C.) Arbitration Award will govern the Parties' interpretation and application of the above-noted provisions, with respect to the matter of when overtime and shift premiums are payable to employees working a flexible work schedule.

## **APPENDIX O**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **AGENCY NURSES**

HEABC will provide, to the Chair of the NBA, at the beginning of each fiscal quarter, a quarterly report with non-proprietary information outlining utilization of agency nurses. In addition, the parties also agree that agency nurses and nursing contractors will not supervise or otherwise direct the work of NBA members.

## APPENDIX P

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### INCENTIVE PAYMENT FOR PRE AND POST-RETIREES

1. The Employer will provide an annual incentive payment (the “Incentive Payment”) to:
  - (i) Employees who are eligible to retire, have maximized their pensionable service and are not eligible or elect not to contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) or the Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP) and who continue to work in a regular full-time or a regular part-time position; and
  - (ii) Employees who have maximized their pensionable service and are not eligible or elect not to contribute to the MPP or the PSPP and who do retire or are retired and draw a pension but are rehired into a regular full-time or a regular part-time position.

(collectively the “Eligible Employees”)

2. The Incentive Payment will be:
  - (i) An amount equal to what the Employer would have contributed to the MPP or the PSPP for the Eligible Employee based on earnings over the preceding year (less any required statutory deductions). Any earnings counted toward pensionable service will be excluded from the calculation of the Incentive Payment.
  - (ii) Payable following December 31st in each year that the Eligible Employee is employed in a regular full-time or regular part-time position as described in 1(i) or 1(ii) above.
  - (iii) Paid at the Eligible Employee’s option either:
    - (a) directly to the Eligible Employee’s Registered Retirement Savings Plan where allowable and supported by the appropriate financial institution documentation supplied by the Eligible Employee; or
    - (b) directly to the Eligible Employee.

## APPENDIX Q

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### CLIENT SPECIFIC NURSES FROM HOME SUPPORT AGENCIES

1. The assignment of nurses to clients will continue in accordance with current practices for all types of assignments. These assignments include the assignment of clients to regular employees and casual employees, and upon regular employees losing hours, the reallocation of employees to other clients, and the assignment of replacement hours.
2. An employee who works in client specific assignment(s) for a minimum of fifteen (15) hours per week, up to thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours per week, on an ongoing basis, who has worked these hours in excess of four (4) months, and who is expected to continue to work these hours for an ongoing period, will be entitled to regular status.
3. It is understood that employees who choose to become regular will no longer be able to restrict their availability for hours. Employers have the right to determine the total hours of work per week to which employees are assigned.
4. Employees who meet the requirements outlined in #3 above, will have a choice to retain casual status or apply for regular status. The Employer may then reorganize the work in an effort to determine whether a regular position can be sustained for that employee.
5. Employees would retain regular status for as long as they continue to work within this range of hours, that is fifteen (15) to thirty-seven and one-half (37.5) hours per week.
6. The Employer will make every effort to find replacement assignments for these employees if they lose hours within this range. This means, that if qualified, these employees would be presented by the Employer to any new clients coming onto service.
7. Should they fall below this range of hours on an ongoing basis, displacement will be deemed to have occurred. Employees will have the option to revert to casual status or exercise their displacement options.

8. If employees choose displacement, the Employer will make every effort to find replacement assignments for these employees. This means, that if qualified, these employees would be presented by the Employer to any new clients coming onto service. This will be the full extent of the Employer's obligations.
9. The hours of assignments, and the assignments themselves, are subject to fluctuation on short notice. Where it is possible to re-schedule these hours, they will be. Where the Employer is reimbursed for the lost hours, the employee will be paid accordingly.
10. The following provisions of the Provincial Collective Agreement apply to regular employees pursuant to this Memorandum:

Articles 1 to 10

Articles 12 and 13

Articles 15 and 16

Article 18.04, as amended\* Articles 20 to 24

Article 25.01

Article 25.02 – in addition, it is understood that work schedules are based on client needs and preferences.

Article 25.07

Article 25.08

Article 25.09(B)

Article 25.10

Article 25.11

Article 26

Article 27.01 to 27.04

Articles 28 to 62

This Framework for Settlement will be implemented within sixty (60) days following ratification.

This Framework for Settlement is subject to funding from the applicable Ministries of the Provincial Government.

\* 18.04 is amended to read as follows:

The parties to the collective agreement recognize the value of orientation programs for employees and that the responsibility for providing such programs lies with the Employer. The Employer agrees to provide such orientation in a manner it deems appropriate to employees new to the Program. Orientation shall include:

- (A) organizational structure;
- (B) relevant policies and procedures;
- (C) duties of the position.

Employees required to attend such programs will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

*Note:* General practice on how employees are presented to clients for selection:

*Upon new clients coming onto service, the Employer contacts qualified employees by phone to determine whether they are willing to be presented to a client for an interview. Should the Employer have some notice of the client coming onto service (i.e. two to three weeks), qualified employees, whose availability is consistent with the client's schedule of care, and who are in an appropriate geographic location, will be presented to the client, by seniority, subject to the priority "presentment" below. If the client requires service immediately, the Employer will be more focused on contacting qualified employees that it knows are readily available.*

*Priority "presentment" is offered to those employees who have been displaced, who have lost hours, who return from long-term leaves of absence, or who desire more hours or different hours of work, in that order. External candidates are given last priority. The assignment(s) may then be filled within the total discretion of the client.*

This Memorandum of Agreement was introduced in the 1998 to 2001 Provincial collective Agreement. During bargaining for the 2019-2022 Provincial Agreement the Nurses' Bargaining Association proposed to delete this memorandum. Due to time constraints, the parties were unable to determine the applicability of this MOA. Therefore, the parties agree to review and update the MOA, including whether it should apply to licensed practical nurses, during the term of this Agreement.

**APPENDIX R**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK WORKING GROUP**

**Background**

Article 16 of the 2014-19 NBA Collective Agreement provides for formal written performance evaluations of each employee during the probationary period and not less than annually, thereafter. For various reasons in the health care sector, the completion of annual evaluations has been inconsistent over time.

Effective performance feedback should not only identify areas for development but also instill confidence and provide recognition of areas of strength for both managers and employees. Effective feedback is an important aspect of staff retention, staff development and positive work relationships between managers and employees.

Human resources literature has identified a trend moving away from the formal, written annual performance reviews to approaches which support regular feedback and check-ins with staff. Further, reciprocal, open dialogue promotes a healthy, engaged and productive workforce. To this end, the parties have previously agreed to implement the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace (the “Standard”).

Several health authorities have been working on programs to support regular and on-going communication between managers and employees. These programs, or core elements of them, may be used as a standardized approach for all health care employers.

Technological advances have created the opportunity to support regular, documented feedback in a way that minimizes the workload on both employees and managers.

**Performance Feedback Working Group**

The parties agree to establish a Working Group to develop a positive learning program for managers and employees, including tools to support effective performance feedback.

Within sixty (60) days of ratification, the parties will agree on Terms of Reference for the Working Group. These Terms of Reference will identify the participants from both the Employers and the NBA.

The Working Group will be supported by a small secretariat, including project management support. Funding of \$50,000 will be provided for the secretariat. A work plan will be developed and approved by the parties, within sixty (60) days of approval of the Terms of Reference.

The Working Group will complete the following work:

1. Literature review of performance feedback approaches, particularly in health care.
2. Identification of current innovative feedback practices in place at BC health care employers and elsewhere.
3. Conduct focus groups with staff and managers to understand current practices, barriers and future opportunities.
4. Development of modern approaches for performance feedback, applicable to health care employers in BC. This work will include:
  - a. Development of material, education and tools to support managers
  - b. Development of material, education and tools to support employees
5. Identification of technology and system to support the approaches developed.
6. Development of an implementation plan encompassing education, change management and formal evaluation of the program.

The Working Group will be guided by the following principles. Feedback is intended to:

- Be a positive opportunity for reciprocal feedback between managers and employees;
- Support the implementation of the Standard;
- Be regular and timely;
- Positively identify areas of strength and opportunities for development;
- Create a culture of positive communication in work areas; and



- Be supported by technology and processes which minimize the administrative burden on managers. Technology may support discussion but not replace face-to-face feedback and dialogue.

The Working Group may establish sub-groups to work on specific tasks.

The Working Group will provide bi-monthly progress reports to the parties and will complete the work with a final report provided by March 31, 2020.

**APPENDIX S**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**EXTENDED HEALTH CARE AND DENTAL BENEFITS**

Re: Article 60.02 (Extended Health Care Coverage) and Article 60.03 (Dental Coverage)

Notwithstanding the reference to the Pacific Blue Cross Plan in Article 60.02 (Extended Health Care Coverage) and Article 60.03 (Dental Coverage), the Parties agree, that where an Employer in Group A, Group B, or Group C of Article 46 of the 1996 to 1998 PCA currently provides these benefits under another plan, it is understood that such plans are mutually agreed providing the overall level of benefits meets or exceeds the level of benefits under the Pacific Blue Cross Plan.

**APPENDIX T**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**DRUG COVERAGE**

**Background**

The current drug plan in effect for RNs, RPNs and LPNs includes a full Pharmacare tie-in and coverage for Prometrium. RNs and RPNs also have coverage for contraceptives.

A consent award established on-going grandparenting of certain drugs for members of the NBA and their dependents. It also provided grandparenting of the previous plan for nurses on LTD who were living out of province at the time of the change (i.e. the plan that preceded Pharmacare tie-in).

## **Drug Plan Provisions**

The parties agree to increase the drug coverage in the extended health plan. Effective January 1, 2017, the parties agree to change the drug plan coverage to Blue Rx. It is agreed that coverage for Pro-metrium will continue.

It is further agreed that contraceptive coverage for RNs and RPNs will also continue. Coverage will be added for LPNs, effective immediately.

Any/all nurses and their dependents who have been grandparented under the Consent Award, will continue to be grandparented.

It is understood that costing for this change as provided by Pacific Blue Cross (“PBC”) includes the ongoing costs of grandparented drugs.

If the NBA determines that nurses or their dependents will lose coverage as a result of the change from the current drug plan to Blue Rx, it is agreed that they will be grandparented when Blue Rx is implemented.

The parties agree that Pacific Blue Cross will provide an information package explaining the Blue Rx program prior to a ratification vote.

## **Extended Health Provisions**

The parties agree that the cost of the increase in coverage for hearing aids as per Article 46.02 of the Provincial Collective Agreement shall be borne by the BCNU.

## **Communication**

The parties agree to develop an implementation/communication plan in consultation with PBC within one (1) month of ratification to ensure that there is sufficient time to advise member of plan changes.

**APPENDIX U**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**SUSTAINABILITY OF NBA BENEFITS PLANS**

**Background**

1. In the 2012 – 2014 Provincial Collective Agreement the NBA and HEABC agreed to a Joint Benefit Committee (“the Committee”).
2. The purpose of the committee was to identify opportunities for making benefit plans (Extended Health, Dental, Group Life, AD&D) more cost effective while maintaining and increasing overall value for members.
3. The Committee’s core function was to identify cost containment options to ensure the long-term sustainability of the benefit plans and develop recommendations for implementation.
4. The Committee was to report to the parties by December 31, 2013.
5. Up to and including the present day, the Committee has not met and consequently not examined any cost containment options.
6. In order to manage the rising costs of benefits HEABC has negotiated a Joint Benefit Trust with every health sector bargaining association, other than the NBA.
7. The NBA has maintained a position, headed by BCNU President Gayle Duteil, stating that the BCNU, which comprises 98% of NBA members, would not agree to a Joint Health Benefit Trust (“the Trust”).
8. The Trust would require nurses to be responsible for up to a 50% of future increased benefit cost. This was and continues to be an unacceptable proposition for the NBA to agree with. The NBA will be enhancing member pharmacare benefits by adopting Blue RX from Blue Cross, the cost of which will be borne by the BCNU.

**Therefore the Parties agree as follows:**

9. The NBA will meet with HEABC three (3) months post ratification of the Provincial Collective Agreement (“PCA”) to discuss and develop two specific plans:

- a. a detailed plan to manage and reduce LTD cost; and
- b. a benefits growth management plan for Extended Health, Dental, Group Life, AD&D (“the Plan”).

**Reduction of LTD Cost:**

10. HEABC will develop a detailed plan to manage LTD costs and the NBA will consider collaborative actions to assist in this effort.

**Growth Management Plan for Extended Health, Dental, Group Life, AD&D:**

11. The development of the Plan will be based on the following principles:
  - a. ensure the sustainable growth of the benefits plans by reaching a mutual agreement on a sustainable benefit growth rate for Extended Health, Dental, Group Life, AD&D (“the Rate”);
  - b. the Rate will be inclusive of Blue RX costs and calculated based on projected 2017 utilization and applied as a percentage of straight time payroll;
  - c. the NBA will fund additional costs above the Rate up to a maximum fixed amount of up to \$5,000,000 annually for the term of the collective agreement to be funded from the interest accumulated in the retiree 1% fund;
  - d. there will be a full and transparent process for sharing information on all aspects of benefit cost and utilization including information on other bargaining associations with respect to the benefit growth rates established for their plans; and
  - e. the Plan will be implemented no later than April 1, 2017 and the first possible payment by the NBA will be in April, 2018.

**Term:**

12. This LOA will be operative from date of execution until the successful renegotiation of the PCA.

**APPENDIX U.1**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS**

**Preamble**

The Parties recognize that a comprehensive and sustainable health care benefit plan is essential to the health and productivity of nurses in British Columbia.

In the last 10 years, the utilization of massage therapy covered by the benefit plan has increased by over 900% from \$3 million to \$31 million dollars. At the current growth rate, massage therapy costs alone will be 3% of payroll by 2022. It is clear that the current rate of increase on spending for these benefits is unsustainable and that changes need to be made to secure the future of the nurses' benefits plan.

As the cost of massage therapy benefits is 71% of all paramedical benefits, the increased utilization of massage therapy benefits comes at the expense of improving other extended health and dental benefits such as vision care, prescription drug coverage, dental benefits and psychology.

The current benefit plan is also inflexible and fails to respond to the individual needs of nurses. Nurses are healthcare professionals and want to have a choice in the benefits that are provided. Any benefit plan changes must improve the health, social and economic well-being of all nurses.

The parties understand the need to have further discussions and conduct extensive consultation with benefit providers and nurses to determine what is driving the escalating costs of massage therapy at the expense of increasing other benefits.

A re-allocation of benefit funding could provide several opportunities for flexibility and benefit improvements for nurses. For instance, it could eliminate the plan deductible and co-pay, and allow nurses to purchase any benefit considered a medical expense by the Canada Revenue Agency, such as fertility treatment, laser eye surgery and occupational therapy. This potential re-allocation could also ensure that benefits are not lost annually, and may be carried forward for future use.

The parties are committed to improving the value of benefits to nurses and ensuring that those who are most vulnerable and in need are protected, while securing the sustainability of the benefit plan.

### **NBA Benefit Plan Working Group**

Therefore, the parties agree to establish a joint Working Group consisting of representatives from the NBA and HEABC. Over a period of twelve (12) months or otherwise mutually agreed by the parties, the Working Group will commit to examine the underlying causes of massage therapy utilization, including conducting comprehensive consultation with experts and nurses across the province. The Working Group will explore options for addressing the concern while continuing to protect the sustainability of benefits for all nurses, including the most vulnerable.

### **The Working Group will be tasked with providing recommendations that ensure the following principles are met:**

- Continuation of 100% Employer paid benefits
- A sustainable program that protects nurses' benefits
- Increased flexibility to the individual needs of nurses
- Increased individual decision-making over benefits

The parties will study two potential options for addressing massage therapy and other paramedical benefit utilization that will also meet these principles:

#### **1. The creation of an Enhanced Flex Benefit Account**

The Enhanced Flex Benefit Account ("Flex Benefit") would be an innovative, superior benefit which requires further exploration and development to maximize the benefit provided to nurses. The Flex Benefit would provide each nurse with an annual amount for all paramedical benefits, including massage therapy.

Unlike the current plan, the Flex Benefit would accrue and allow nurses to carry forward their balance every year, giving them individual choice on when and how the benefit may be used. This approach provides nurses with the freedom to use their benefits as they see fit, and will not change LTD, dental, prescription drug, or other Health and Welfare benefits currently provided.

The Flex Benefit may be used to purchase any benefit recognized as a medical expense by the Canada Revenue Agency including new benefits not covered by the current plan. It may also be used to provide increased coverage of existing benefits.

As the Flex Benefit is never lost, the balance may be withdrawn at retirement as a retiring allowance or pension enhancement.

## **2. Reimbursement limit applied to massage therapy and other benefits improved.**

The parties acknowledge that nursing is a physically demanding profession that requires higher utilization of massage therapy by its members. This option would include capping the currently unlimited massage therapy benefit but at a level that would continue to cover a majority of massage claimants. The parties may consider re-allocating savings from this plan change to increase other benefits, such as vision care, dental coverage, psychology, and the elimination of deductible and co-pay.

Nurses across BC will be extensively consulted and will have a voice over which option they prefer. Either option will secure the sustainability of the nurses' benefits and provide an improved benefit plan.

In addition, the Working Group will explore opportunities to further support ill and injured workers, and add value to the benefits offered. Opportunities to be considered include but are not limited to:

- Improved access to Early Intervention Services for nurses enrolled in the Enhanced Disability Management Program (EDMP)
- Access to paramedical benefits at reduced rates
- Joint Employer-Union Wellness initiatives

### **Benefits Funding**

Depending on the option chosen, one of the following two benefits cost approaches will be implemented.

In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the Benefits Funding approach by December 31 2019, the matter will be determined by binding decision of Vince Ready.

#### **A. Flex Benefit Funding Option**

1. Upon formation of the Working Group, HEABC will provide or

cause the Healthcare Benefit Trust (“HBT”) and the HBT’s contracted benefit providers to provide directly to HEABC or the NBA, all reasonable data requested by either the HEABC or the NBA and their respective designated advisors for purposes of analyzing the future provision by the Flex Benefit Account of benefits currently provided by the HBT. For purposes of clarity, such data will include all data necessary to perform an actuarial valuation of the benefit costs.

2. HEABC, NBA and their respective members on the Working Committee will maintain strict confidentiality in respect of the data.
3. The Parties agree that the current benefits provided by the collective agreement shall be maintained until January 1, 2021.
4. The Parties, through the Working Group shall negotiate an agreed-upon benefits funding model expressed as a fixed percentage of regular straight-time.
5. For clarity, the Parties, through the Working Group, will agree upon a reference period to determine the fixed percentage using the following formula: actual Employer cost of paramedical benefits divided by total straight time payroll.
6. The Parties agree that the funding formula determined for Benefits Funding pursuant to paragraph 4 shall remain fixed for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022 and will be subject to renegotiation under any renewal collective agreement.
7. If this option is selected, HEABC will ensure interim funding as necessary for the Flex Benefit program between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021.
8. The Working Group may enter into negotiations to effect an asset and liability transfer from HBT.
9. The HEABC will indemnify and save harmless the NBA, its constituent unions, and the Flex Benefit program from any and all claims from HBT, the HEABC or the Government of the Province of British Columbia, including any exit levies from HBT or any other person or entity.



## **B. Reimbursement Limit Funding Option**

1. If the recommendation is to implement reimbursement limits, the parties agree to negotiate limits for paramedical benefits that result in total paramedical benefit costs which approximates the benefits funding model above.

### **Recommendations**

One year after ratification and comprehensive consultation with NBA members (or as mutually agreed between the parties), the Working Group shall make a recommendation to the Chair of the NBA and the CEO of HEABC to determine which benefit plan change option is most appropriate.

The parties shall implement the recommended option, effective January 1, 2021, or at an earlier date by mutual agreement.

**APPENDIX U.2**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX U.1 HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
**BENEFIT**

**WHEREAS:**

- a. The Parties agree to amend the Appendix U.1 Health and Welfare Benefits Memorandum of Agreement, dated June 30, 2021 (the "Appendix U.1 MOA"), as described herein;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Parties agree as follows:

1. Effective the date of the ratification of the 2022-2025 Nurses' Provincial Collective Agreement, the following provisions of the Appendix U.1 MOA are amended as follows (additions underlined, deletions struck out):
  - a. *Notwithstanding the terms of Appendix U.1, the Parties will implement a prescribed benefit plan change model in accordance with this agreement by no later than January 1, 2026~~3~~.*
2. The dates for the project work schedule and plan as described in the Appendix U.1 MOA will be revised to align with the implementation date.
3. The Appendix U.1 MOA will otherwise remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

**APPENDIX V**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**JURISDICTIONAL AGREEMENT**

The parties agree to adhere to the Jurisdictional Agreement for the Nurses' Bargaining Association as written by John Baigent on August 4, 1998.

**JURISDICTIONAL AGREEMENT FOR NURSES' BARGAINING ASSOCIATION**

The signatories to this agreement recognize that jurisdictional disputes divide workers and inhibit Union from cooperating to achieve improved working and social conditions for their members.

We have determined that the best way to reduce/eliminate the disruptive effect of these disputes, is to have clear jurisdictional guidelines which are agreed by all the Unions in the Association.

The Unions who form the Nurses' Bargaining Association agree to the following jurisdictional principles to guide themselves and any third party in the settlement of questions about which Union an employee covered by the Provincial Collective Agreement, belong to:

- (1) Nurses who change jobs/credentials at their current worksite do not change their Union membership.
- (2) Newly hired RNs and RPNs (single registered) join the Union which represents the predominant number of nurses with their credentials at the worksite. Newly hired dual registered nurses will choose their Union at the time of hire and will remain in that Union unless they change worksite. In all cases (RN, RPN, dual registered) if there is only one association member Union representing nurses at that worksite, they join that Union.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, in those workplaces where UPN and BCNU have in the past shared a joint certification, RNs will become BCNU members, RPNs will become UPN members, and dual registered nurses will have their choice of either BCNU or UPN as their Union. See above.

- (3) The Union who organizes a first certification negotiates that certification into the Nurses' Provincial Collective Agreement.

As ordered by John Baigent, Umpire, August 4, 1998.

## **APPENDIX W**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **FULL-TIME STEWARD AND STEWARD AT LARGE POSITIONS**

##### **Full-Time Stewards (FTS)**

In the interest of developing quality labour-management relationships the parties have agreed to the continuation of full-time steward (FTS) positions at the following locations:

Vancouver General Hospital	2.0 FTE
UBC Hospital	1.0 FTE

Lions Gate Hospital	1.0 FTE
Richmond Hospital	1.0 FTE
BC Children's and Women's Hospital	1.0 FTE
St. Paul's Hospital	1.0 FTE
Mt. St. Joseph's Hospital	1.0 FTE
Royal Columbian Hospital	2.0 FTE
Royal Jubilee Hospital	1.0 FTE
Victoria General Hospital	1.0 FTE
Nanaimo Regional General Hospital	1.0 FTE
Kelowna General Hospital	1.0 FTE
Royal Inland Hospital	1.0 FTE
University Hospital of Northern BC	1.0 FTE
Surrey	2.0 FTE
Burnaby	1.0 FTE
Abbotsford	1.0 FTE
Langley (with Community)	1.0 FTE
Eagle Ridge (with Community)	1.0 FTE
Chilliwack (with Community)	1.0 FTE
Vernon	1.0 FTE
South Island (LTC & Community)	1.0 FTE
Vancouver (Community)	1.0 FTE
Forensic Psychiatric Hospital and Forensic Clinics	1.0 FTE
Total	27.0 FTE

The parties agree that the twenty-seven (27) FTE allocation may be reviewed to provide re-distribution of hours to meet changing needs. Such re-distribution will be upon mutual agreement and will not exceed the twenty-seven (27) FTE allocation.

These positions are intended to:

- promote understanding between the Union and the Employer through improved communications and relationships;
- provide leadership and mentorship to designated stewards;
- spend the majority of their time conducting union business;
- coordinate and assign duties and responsibilities of stewards as well as perform such duties when deemed appropriate and necessary by the FTS;
- promote cultural safety and support the principles of diversity, equity and inclusivity;
- work collaboratively to resolve workplace differences short of grievance and arbitration; and
- track worksite issues and monitor trends.

Within one hundred and twenty (120) days of ratification, the parties agree to create an additional four (4) province-wide full-time stewards to promote Truth and Reconciliation, cultural safety and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

Full-time stewards are entitled to up to a maximum of six (6) weeks of vacation backfill. An amount equal to three (3) FTE have been allocated to Health Authorities/Providence Health Care on a proportional basis for this backfill.

To minimize the impacts on patient care and contain the costs in providing backfill for representatives, where issues arise with respect to backfill coverage, such issues will be discussed between the parties.

### **Stewards at Large (SAL)**

The parties agree to the continuation of the seventeen (17) Steward at Large positions, one from each BCNU region.

SAL positions will be allocated as follows:

Coastal Mountain	1.0 FTE
Richmond Vancouver	1.0 FTE
Central Vancouver	1.0 FTE

Vancouver Metro	1.0 FTE
Shaughnessy Heights	1.0 FTE
Simon Fraser	1.0 FTE
South Fraser Valley	1.0 FTE
Fraser Valley	1.0 FTE
South Islands	1.0 FTE
Pacific Rim	1.0 FTE
North West	1.0 FTE
North East	1.0 FTE
Okanagan Similkameen	1.0 FTE
Thompson North Okanagan	1.0 FTE
West Kootenay	1.0 FTE
East Kootenay	1.0 FTE
NBA Constituent Unions	1.0 FTE
Total	17.0 FTE

The Parties agree that the seventeen (17) FTE allocation may be reviewed to provide re-distribution of hours to meet changing needs. Such re-distribution will be upon mutual agreement and will not exceed the seventeen (17) FTE allocation.

These positions are intended to:

- promote understanding between the Union and the Employer through improved communications and relationships;
- provide leadership and mentorship to designated stewards;
- spend the majority of their time conducting Article 6 work;
- work collaboratively to resolve workplace differences short of grievance and arbitration;
- promote cultural safety and support the principles of diversity, equity and inclusivity; and
- track worksite issues and monitor trends.

SAL positions will be selected from staff of the Health Authority/Providence Health Care site from within their region.

## **General**

In the event that either the Health Authority/Providence Health Care or the Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA) have concerns regarding the effectiveness of the working relationship at a particular location, the Vice President of Human Resources and the senior NBA representative will meet to discuss the most appropriate means of addressing the issues.

The effectiveness of the labour/management relationships will be evaluated on a yearly basis by a representative of the Union and the Employer through the examination of factors such as the disposition of grievances, improved resolution of workplace differences short of grievance or arbitration, as well as initiatives that have improved communications.

The parties agree to support joint education on topics which promote the development of quality labour/management relationships. In situations where facilitators/educators are used, such cost will be shared equally by the Employers and the Union.

The parties agree to the following principles as they relate to the union-management relationship and the application of the PCA:

- a. SAL and FTS will normally be the first point of contact for Article 6 work subject to their availability. Other worksite stewards will continue to perform work pursuant to Article 6 as per the PCA.
- b. The parties agree to use technology, where appropriate, (e.g., ZOOM, teleconference) to allow incumbents to support remote sites in a cost efficient and effective manner.
- c. Normally, one (1) union steward is required time off to perform work outlined in Article 6.03 and 6.04 at the same time, unless otherwise agreed between the Employer and Union at the local level. Notwithstanding, meetings should normally have a similar number of attendees from the Employer and the Union.
- d. In the event that the Union desires an additional person to attend for mentorship or training, they may apply for union leave under Article 44.01(F).

## Hours of Work and Remuneration

1. All positions are intended to be full-time and incumbents will be considered regular full-time status while occupying the positions unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Union and Employer.
2. Hours of work are 37.5 hours per week on a regular schedule from Monday to Friday, unless the parties (local employer and designated Union staff representative) at a particular location mutually decide otherwise. Agreement on alternative arrangements will not be unreasonably withheld.
3. Daily hours of work will depend on the individual workload which may vary.
4. Schedules will be communicated to the Employer.
5. All positions will have a mutually agreed home site.
6. All positions will be paid at Nurse Level 3, Step 10 of the wage rate grid while occupying the position. Service for the purpose of wage increments in their original positions will accrue and be credited upon their return to their original position in accordance with the collective agreement. SAL and FTS will be eligible to receive Year 15-30 Add Pay in accordance with Appendix WW – 2023 Wage Schedule Adjustments.
7. In the event that an existing incumbent is receiving a higher rate of pay, they will be wage protected at their current rate of pay as long as they remain in the position. Such nurses are eligible for any negotiated general wage increases.
8. Compensation is based on straight-time hours and does not include overtime worked within or attached to their original position.
9. Compensation for wages and premiums is based on the principle that incumbents should not lose overall earnings as a result of filling one of these positions. Incumbents will be compensated for all premiums that they would have been entitled to in accordance with their original position except Article 28.04 – Short Notice Premium while occupying the position.
10. The premiums paid will be based on an average of all hours paid that attracted the applicable premium within the 12 months immediately preceding the incumbent's commencement in the position.



In circumstances where the incumbent held their original position for less than 12 months prior to commencement in the position, the average will be based on the shorter period. The average will be paid on a bi-weekly basis in accordance with the Employer's pay periods. Article 28.05 - Regular Premium entitlement for existing incumbents as of April 1, 2023 will be calculated based on the annual average hours worked by a full-time nurse pro-rated by the FTE of their regular position with the Employer.

11. Incumbents should undertake to schedule their work so as not to incur overtime. Overtime worked in the position must be authorized in accordance with the PCA.
12. Incumbents are permitted to accept nursing work offered by the Employer outside their position which will be applied and paid as per the PCA, including at overtime rates where applicable.
13. Any benefits that are not collective agreement rights but were in place prior to starting in the position, such as parking, will continue as long as they are in effect between the parties.

## **APPENDIX X**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **NEW GRADUATES: MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

Health Authorities/Providence Health Care may implement a Mentorship Program for newly graduated Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses. The purpose of the program is to guide/support new graduates' transition from "practice ready" to "job ready".

The program will include newly graduated RNs and RPNs.

If the Health Authority/Providence Health Care decides to implement this program, it will be implemented on a health authority wide basis. All new graduates hired at that time will be hired under this program. The Health Authority/Providence Health Care will determine the number of new graduates to hire and will notify the NBA.

The new graduates will be hired as casual employees and will be given temporary full-time/part-time assignments for twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) weeks of the Mentorship Program. Employees in such assignments will be treated as a regular employee for the duration of the assignment.

Educational sessions, for both mentor and new graduate, will be held at the beginning and end of the agreed upon time period.

Each new graduate will have extra “orientation” of four (4) full shifts with a buddy, except where a new graduate’s preceptorship has been on the same unit.

Any new graduate mentorship programs of twenty-four (24) weeks or longer will be covered by this memorandum.

**APPENDIX Y**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**PENSION FOR RETIREES**

Effective April 1, 2008, provided that the Municipal Pension Plan rules can be changed which the Employer agrees to support, the Union agrees to convert the 2008 one (1) percent market adjustment to provide funding for inflation protection and benefits for retirees who were members of the Nurses’ Bargaining Association (NBA) constituent unions.

Effective April 1, 2024, the one (1) percent market adjustment will be expanded to include Licensed Practical Nurses.

**APPENDIX Z**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**RECOGNITION OF SENIORITY**

The Health Authorities will recognize seniority that was attained at the previous employer for successful applicants for regular positions where the previous employer was unionized with one of the constituent unions with the Nurses’ Bargaining Association.

**APPENDIX AA**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**JOB SHARING**

**Article 1 – Preamble**

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Agreement establishes provision for any group of employees, at least one of whom holds regular status, to voluntarily “job share” one or more regular position(s).

- 1.2 A “Job Sharing Arrangement” refers to a specific written agreement between the Union and the Employer. This agreement must be signed before a job sharing arrangement can be implemented.

## **Article 2 – Participation**

- 2.1 The parties recognize that involvement in job sharing is voluntary for all parties. It is further agreed that there will be no pressure brought to bear on Employers or employees to participate in job sharing, nor will there be access to the grievance procedure should such job sharing not be established at the facility level.
- 2.2 Employees may initiate a request for job sharing in writing (subject to Article 2.3 and 2.4). Where an employee(s) request is denied, they shall be provided with an explanation as to why their request was denied.
- 2.3 Upon approval of a request to job share a notice will be posted in writing and electronically within the department to determine interest in job sharing. Those interested in job sharing will respond to the Employer in writing. Should the number of qualified employees responding exceed the number of positions available, then selection shall be on the basis of seniority.

Job shares will be within the same department and classification except where the Employer and Union agree in good faith.

- 2.4 A notice will also be posted to elicit interest in job sharing arrangements to accommodate employees facing displacement. Approval and selection are subject to 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above.
- 2.5 For the first three (3) months of a job sharing arrangement, an employee will be deemed to be on a qualifying period pursuant to Article 18.03 of the Provincial Collective Agreement, except for employees who are participating in a job share on their home unit, department or program and have already completed their qualifying period.

## **Article 3 – Maintenance of Full-Time Positions**

- 3.1 Shared positions shall be treated as regular positions with each employee having an FTE equal to the FTE they hold within the job sharing arrangement for the purpose of scheduling.

- 3.2 Where a vacancy becomes available as a result of an employee participating in a job sharing arrangement, the vacated position shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of the Provincial Collective Agreement.
- 3.3 If a job sharing partner decides to discontinue participation in a job sharing arrangement, they must give thirty (30) days' notice of their intent to vacate the job share. The participant electing to leave the job share will post into a vacant position, be added to the casual registry, or resign. If those remaining in the job sharing arrangement wish to continue with the arrangement, every effort will be made to fill the vacated portion of the job share within the remaining thirty (30) calendar days.
- 3.4 If no other employee comes forward to fill the vacated portion of the job share, participants of the job share who entered with regular status may select, in seniority order, one of the original FTEs that was brought into the job sharing arrangement. If a participant is left with no FTE, they will be entitled to all displacement rights under Article 19. Participants who held casual status entering into the job sharing arrangement will return to casual status. Any vacancy remaining will be treated in accordance with the provisions in the Collective Agreement.
- 3.5 Either party may give sixty (60) calendar days' notice to end the job sharing arrangement. In this case, participants of the job share who entered with regular status may select, in seniority order, one of the original FTEs that was brought into the job sharing arrangement. If a participant is left with no FTE, they will be entitled to all displacement rights under Article 19. Participants who held casual status entering into the job sharing arrangement will return to casual status. Any vacancy remaining will be treated in accordance with the provisions in the Collective Agreement.
- 3.6 If a master work schedule change occurs, participants of the job share must first determine their FTEs through provision 3.5. Subsequently, participants will use this FTE to select their line on the new master work schedule. If the original FTEs that made up the job share are secured, the job sharing arrangement continues.

#### **Article 4 – Schedules and Job Descriptions**

- 4.1 A work schedule will be set out in advance showing the days and hours or shifts to be worked for each job sharing partner.

- 4.2 Job descriptions for the job sharing partners will be identical.
- 4.3 The Employer agrees not to increase workload levels expected of job sharers for the sole reason the position is shared.
- 4.4 Once established, the position of hours shared may be altered by mutual agreement of the parties.

#### **Article 5 – Benefits**

- 5.1 As a general principle and unless otherwise revised in this Memorandum, the employees will neither gain nor lose any benefits presently contained in the Provincial Collective Agreement.
- 5.2 Each employee in a job sharing arrangement will be treated as a part-time employee for all benefit and pension purposes.
- 5.3 Each employee in a job sharing arrangement must maintain unbroken eligibility for Employment Insurance and Canada Pension coverage.

#### **Article 6 – Relief**

- 6.1 Temporary relief for a job shared position will be determined pursuant to the Provincial Collective Agreement. However, job sharers will provide relief for each other where there is no other source of relief available.

## **APPENDIX BB**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

### **JOB SECURITY**

#### **Whereas:**

The Health Employers Association of BC (“HEABC”) and the Nurses’ Bargaining Association (“NBA”) recognize that the ongoing implementation of the Ministry of Health’s strategic priorities may result in changes to the manner in which healthcare services are delivered over the term of the collective agreement.

-And-

The Ministry of Health will be conducting a review of long term care services including contracts, service standards, and education and training gaps of nurses in order to support the transformation of the community care services.

-And-

HEABC and the NBA have a shared interest in ensuring that these changes have as little impact as possible on nurses' employment security.

**Therefore, HEABC and the NBA agree that:**

**1. Acute Care and Community Nursing:**

For the purposes of this agreement no nurse will be involuntarily laid off due to contracting out or due to shifting healthcare resources from acute care to communities or long term care.

**2. Long Term Care Nursing:**

In consideration of the above health authorities and Providence Health Care will not layoff nurses employed in long term care as a result of any contracting out.

Further, health authorities will request the health authority contracted service providers to not proceed with any contracting out of nursing services.

Regardless of the review conducted by the Ministry of Health, if a nurse is involuntarily laid off by a contracted service provider due to contracting out the health authority will guarantee that the nurse will have no loss of salary, employment, benefits, service and seniority.

HEABC will facilitate the nurses' transition into another comparable nursing position into the following:

- a. in another health care affiliate site;
- b. in a health authority operated long-term care facility;
- c. in the community health sector; or
- d. in acute care.

Where the nurse is not sufficiently qualified and capable of filling a position the health authority and the Union will jointly determine the training, retraining, or skills upgrade the nurse requires and jointly develop an education upgrade plan for the nurse. The BCNU will consider assisting in the training, rehiring and/or skills upgrade costs.

### **3. Casual employees**

If a casual employee is terminated due to contracting out, by an affiliate member who has contracted to provide services to a Health Authority/PHC, the Health Authority/PHC will make all reasonable efforts to add the casual employee to a casual list in a comparable nursing position within the Health Authority/PHC provided the casual employee has demonstrated they have the requisite qualifications prior to the placement on the list.

The Health Authority/PHC is not required to re-hire a casual employee that it has previously terminated.

The Health Authority/PHC will retain the discretion to determine the location, within the geographic region, of the placement based on operational needs.

### **4. Term**

This Memorandum shall be operative for the term of this Agreement and requires specific renewal to continue beyond the term of the current Agreement.

## **APPENDIX CC**

### **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

#### **CONTRACTING OUT**

Notwithstanding Article 6.02 the Employer may contract out non-clinical services, including when such contracting out results in the layoff of employees.

The parties agree that the language of this Memorandum of Agreement does not in any way vary the meaning of “non-clinical services” as defined in the current *Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act* and the Health Sector Labour Adjustment Regulation.

As a matter of clarification, this Memorandum of Agreement continues in force and effect until such time as the parties negotiate changes to it.

**APPENDIX DD**  
**LIST OF EMPLOYERS**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA NURSES' UNION (BCNU)**

The following list of employers is for information purposes only and may vary from the list of employers attached to the Nurses Bargaining Association consolidated certifications issued by the Labour Relations Board ("LRB"), as amended from time to time. If there is an inconsistency between the two lists, the LRB certification lists and case law will apply. The following list was generated as of July 2023.

484017 B.C. Ltd. (Kimbelee Place) [3p], Surrey

Age Care Investments (B.C.) Ltd. (Harmony Court Care Centre and Estate) [1p], Burnaby

Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society (Echo Village) [1], Port Alberni

Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society (Fir Park Village) [1], Port Alberni

Aldergrove Lions Seniors Housing Society (Jackman Manor) [1], Aldergrove

Argyll Lodge Ltd. (Argyll Lodge) [3], Surrey

Arcan Developments Ltd. (West Vancouver Care Centre) [1p], West Vancouver

Arrow and Slovan Lakes Community Services (Arrow and Slovan Lakes Community Services) [6], Nakusp

AVI Health & Community Services Society (Campbell River and Courtenay) [7]

AVI Health & Community Services Society (Nanaimo) [7]

AVI Health & Community Services Society (Victoria) [7]

Baptist Housing Care Homes Society, The (Heights at Mt. View) [1], Victoria

Baptist Housing Enhanced Living Communities (Sun Pointe Village) [1], Kelowna



Baptist Housing Enhanced Living Communities (Village at Mill Creek) [1], Kelowna

Baptist Housing Enhanced Living Communities (Village at Smith Creek) [1], Westbank

Baptist Housing Oak Bay Care Society (Inglewood Care Centre) [1], West Vancouver

Barclay Care Home Ltd. (Barclay Lodge) [3p], Port Coquitlam

BC Clinical and Support Services Society

Beacon Community Services Society (Beacon Community Services) [7], Sidney

Beacon Community Services Society (Salt Spring and Outer Gulf Islands Home Support Services) [7], Salt Spring Island

Bloom Group Community Services Society, The [3], Vancouver

Braddan Private Hospital Ltd. (Braddan Private Hospital) [1p], Vancouver

British Columbia Cancer Agency

- Abbotsford Cancer Centre
- Centre for the North
- Fraser Valley Cancer Centre, Surrey
- Sindi A. Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior, Kelowna
- Vancouver Cancer Centre
- Vancouver Island Cancer Centre, Victoria

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Society Branch (B.C. Centre for Disease Control) [9], Vancouver

British Columbia Emergency Health Services

- Healthlink BC

British Columbia Mental Health Society Branch (Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction)

Broadway Pentecostal Care Association (Broadway Pentecostal Lodge) [1], Vancouver

C.L. Antonio Inc. (New Horizons) [3p], Mission

Calling Foundation (Blenheim Lodge) [1], Vancouver

Canadian Blood Services/Societe Canadienne du Sang, The (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria) [9]

Canadian Mental Health Association, Vernon and District Branch (Aberdeen House, Vernon and District Branch) [3], Vernon

Carital Continuing Care Society (Villa Carital) [1], Vancouver

Cedarhurst Private Hospital Ltd. (Amherst Private Hospital) [1p], Vancouver

Central Interior Native Health Society [6], Prince George

Cerwydden Care Centre LLP (Cerwydden Care Centre) [1p], Duncan

Chelsey House (2003) Ltd. (Chelsey House) [3p], Langley

Children's and Women's Health Centre of British Columbia Branch, Vancouver

    B.C. Women's Hospital and Health Centre

    British Columbia's Children's Hospital

    Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children

Columbus Long Term Care Society (Columbus Residence) [1], Vancouver

Country Squire Retirement Villa Ltd. (Country Squire Villa) [3p], Osoyoos

Crestlene Lodge Ltd. (Crestlene Lodge) [3p], Delta

Crossreach Project of Vancouver (Crossreach Seniors' Day Centre) [2], Vancouver

Dania Home Society (Dania Home), Burnaby

Dawn Davies Health Care Ltd. (Saanich House) [3p], Victoria

Delta Lodge Ltd. (Delta Lodge) [3p], Delta

Down's Enterprises Ltd. (Down's Residence) [3p], Vernon

Elizabeth Bagshaw Society (Elizabeth Bagshaw Women's Clinic) [6], Vancouver

Evergreen Baptist Care Society (Evergreen Baptist Home) [1], White Rock

Everywoman's Health Centre Society (1988) (Everywoman's Health Centre) [6], Vancouver

Fair Haven Homes Society (Fair Haven Homes – Burnaby Lodge) [1]

Fair Haven Homes Society (Fair Haven Homes – Vancouver Lodge) [1]

Finnish Canadian Rest Home Association, The (Finnish Home) [1], Vancouver

Fleetwood Place Holdings Ltd. (Fleetwood Place) [1p], Vancouver

Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission [3]

Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, Coquitlam

Regional Clinics (Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Prince George)

### **Fraser Health Authority**

Abbotsford Regional Hospital

Burnaby Hospital

Chilliwack General Hospital, Heritage Village, Parkholm Place [1], Chilliwack

Delta Hospital

Eagle Ridge Hospital and Health Care Centre, Port Moody

Fellburn Care Centre, Burnaby and Queen's Park Care Centre, New Westminster

Fraser Canyon Hospital, Hope

Health Services Delivery Area (Fraser Valley) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health, Primary Care, Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Simon Fraser) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health, Primary Care, Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (South Fraser) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health, Primary Care, Home Support [8]

Langley Memorial Hospital  
Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services  
Mission Memorial Hospital  
Peace Arch Hospital, White Rock  
Ridge Meadows Hospital and Health Care Centre, Maple Ridge  
Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminister  
Second Spring Adult Day Care Centre, New Westminister  
Surrey Memorial Hospital

George Derby Care Society (George Derby Centre) [1], Burnaby  
German-Canadian Benevolent Society of British Columbia (German Canadian Care Home) [1], Vancouver  
Glacier View Lodge Society (Glacier View Lodge) [1], Courtenay  
Good Shepherd Lodge Inc. (Good Shepherd Lodge) [3p], White Rock  
Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, The (Buchanan Lodge) [1], New Westminister  
Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, The (Sunset Lodge) [1], Victoria  
Greater Vancouver Community Services Society (Greater Vancouver Community Services) [7], Vancouver  
Greenwoods Eldercare Society, (Greenwoods) [1], Salt Spring Island  
Haro Park Centre Society (Haro Park Centre) [1], Vancouver  
Health and Home Care Society of British Columbia (Family Respite Centre) [2], Vancouver  
Hillside Lodge Ltd. (Hillside Lodge) [3p], Surrey  
Hurst Management Ltd. (Sidney Care Home) [1p], Sidney  
Icelandic Care Home Hofn Society, The (Icelandic Harbour), Vancouver  
Ilapogu Investments Inc. (Oriole Lodge) [3p], Abbotsford

## **Interior Health Authority**

100 Mile District Hospital, 100 Mile House  
Arrow Lakes Hospital, Nakusp  
Ashcroft and District General Hospital, Ashcroft  
Barriere and District Health Centre [9], Barriere  
Bastion Place [1], Salmon Arm  
Boundary District Hospital, Grand Forks  
Braemore Lodge [3], Penticton  
Cariboo Memorial Hospital, Cariboo Lodge, Williams Lake  
Castlegar and District Community Health Centre, Talarico Place, Castlegar  
Columbia View Lodge, Trail  
Coquihalla – Gillis House [1], Merritt  
Creston Valley Hospital, Creston  
David Lloyd-Jones Home [1], Kelowna  
Dr. F.W. Green Memorial Home [1], Cranbrook  
Dr. Helmcken Memorial Hospital, Clearwater  
East Kootenay Regional Hospital, Cranbrook  
Elkford Health Care Centre [9]  
Elk Valley Hospital, Fernie  
Gateby Care Facility [1], Vernon  
Golden & District General Hospital, Henry M. Durand Manor [1], Golden  
Golden and District Home Support [7], Golden  
Halcyon Community Home [1], Nakusp  
Hardy View Lodge [1], Grand Forks

Health Services Delivery Area (East Kootenay) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Community Programs and Services; Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Kootenay Boundary) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Community Programs and Services; Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Okanagan) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health provided by the former North Okanagan Health Region; Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Okanagan) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health services provided by the former Okanagan Similkameen Health Region; Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Thompson Cariboo) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Services provided by the former Cariboo Community Health Services Society; Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Thompson Cariboo) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health services provided by the former Thompson Health Region; Home Support [8]

Hillside Interior Adult Psychiatric Centre [3], Kamloops

Invermere and District Hospital, Invermere

Kelowna General Hospital, Brookhaven Care Centre [1], Cottonwoods Care Centre [1], Kelowna

Kimberley Special Care Home [1]

Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, Trail

Kootenay Lake Hospital, Nelson

Lillooet Hospital and Health Centre

Logan Lake Health Care Centre [9], Logan Lake

Mountain View Lodge [1], Lillooet

Nelson Jubilee Manor [1], Nelson

Nicola Valley Health Centre, Merritt

Noric House [1], Vernon  
Overlander Residential Care [9], Kamloops  
Parkview Place [1], Enderby  
Penticton Regional Hospital  
Pleasant Valley Health Centre & Pleasant Valley Manor, Armstrong  
Ponderosa Lodge [1], Kamloops  
Princeton General Hospital  
Queen Victoria Hospital, Mount Cartier Court, Revelstoke Home Support, Revelstoke  
Ridgewood Lodge [1], Princeton  
Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops  
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Lytton  
Shuswap Lake General Hospital, Salmon Arm  
Slocan Community Health Care Centre [1], New Denver  
South Hills Tertiary Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre, Apple Lane Tertiary Mental Health Residential Unit, Hilltop House Tertiary Mental Health Specialized Residential Care Home [3], Kamloops  
South Okanagan General Hospital, Oliver  
South Similkameen Health Centre [9], Keremeos  
Sparwood Health Centre  
Summerland Health Centre [9]  
Sunnybank Centre [1], Oliver  
Swan Valley Lodge [1], Creston  
Three Links Manor [1], Kelowna  
Trinity Care Center [1], Penticton  
Vernon Jubilee Hospital, Vernon  
Victorian Community Health Centre of Kaslo [9], Kaslo

Invicta Enterprises Incorporated (New Greenwood Lodge) [3], Surrey

Island Community Mental Health Association (Island Community Health Association) [3], Victoria

Island Community Mental Health Association (Greenridge Place) [3], Victoria

Island Community Mental Health Association (McCauley Lodge) [3]. Victoria

James Bay Health and Community Services Society (James Bay Community Project) [6], Victoria

Jewish Home for the Aged of British Columbia (Louis Brier Home and Hospital) [1], Vancouver

Kamloops Personal Care Home Ltd. (Garden Manor) [3p], Kamloops

Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services (Phoenix Centre) [4], Kamloops

KinVillage Association (KinVillage Care Home) [1], Delta

Lakeshore Private Hospital Ltd. (Lakeshore Private Hospital) [1p], Coquitlam

Langley Care Society (Langley Lodge) [1], Langley

L'Chaim Adult Daycare Society (L'Chaim Centre for Adult Daycare) [2], Vancouver

Lookout Housing and Health Society [3], New Westminster

Luther Court Society (Luther Court) [1], Victoria

Lutheran Senior Citizens Housing Society (Zion Park Manor) [1], Surrey

M. Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus) Foundation (Kopernik Lodge) [1], Vancouver

Maplewood Seniors Care Society, The (Maplewood House) [1], Abbotsford

Marie Esther Society, The (Mount Saint Mary Hospital) [9], Victoria

Marineview Housing Society (Cloverly House) [3], North Vancouver



Marineview Housing Society (Malchow House) [3], West Vancouver  
Mennonite Benevolent Society (Menno Hospital) [1], Abbotsford  
Mennonite Intermediate Care Home Society of Richmond (Pinegrove Place) [1], Richmond  
Morgan Place Holdings Ltd. (Morgan Place) [1p], Surrey  
MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement Society (MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement Society) [3], Vancouver  
MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement Society (Sophia House), [3], Vancouver  
MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement Society (Tillikum House) [3], Vancouver  
Nanaimo Travellers Lodge Society (Eden Gardens) [1], Nanaimo  
New Vista Society, The (New Vista Care Home) [1], Burnaby  
North Shore Private Hospital (1985) Ltd. (Lynn Valley Care Centre) [1p], North Vancouver

### **Northern Health Authority**

Acropolis Manor [1], Prince Rupert  
Atlin Health Centre [9], Atlin Bulkley Lodge [1], Smithers  
Bulkley Valley District Hospital, Smithers  
Bulkley Valley Home and Community Care, Smithers  
Chetwynd General Hospital  
Dawson Creek and District Hospital, Dawson Creek  
Dunrovin Park Lodge [1], Quesnel  
Fort Nelson General Hospital  
Fort St. John General Hospital and Peace Villa, Fort St. John  
Fraser Lake Diagnostic and Treatment Centre [9]  
G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital, Quesnel  
Granisle Community Health Centre [9]

Health Services Delivery Area (Northeast) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Northern Interior) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Northern Interior/Quesnel) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health – services provided by the former Cariboo Community Health Services Society [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (Northwest) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health [8]

Houston Health Centre [9]

Hudson's Hope Health Centre [9], Hudson Hope

Kitimat General Hospital

Lakes District Hospital and Health Centre, Burns Lake

Mackenzie and District Hospital, Mackenzie

McBride and District Hospital, McBride

Mills Memorial Hospital, Terrace

North Haida Gwaii Hospital and Health Centre

Parkside Intermediate Care Home [1], Prince George

Prince George & District Home Support [7], Prince George

Prince Rupert Regional Hospital

Queen Charlotte Islands General Hospital, Queen Charlotte City

Queen Charlotte Islands Health Centre [6], Queen Charlotte City

Rainbow Intermediate Care Home [1], Prince George

Rotary Manor [1], Dawson Creek

St. John Hospital, Vanderhoof

Stewart Health Centre, Stewart

Stikine Health Centre [9], Dease Lake

Stuart Lake Hospital, Fort St. James

Stuart Nechako Manor, [1] Vanderhoof

Terraceview Lodge [1], Terrace

Tumbler Ridge Health Centre [9]

University Hospital of Northern British Columbia, Prince George

Valemount Health Centre

Wrinch Memorial Hospital, Hazelton

Norwegian Old People's Home Association (Normanna Rest Home) [1], Burnaby

Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society (The Kiwanis Pavilion) [1], Victoria

Oyster Harbour Seniors Community Partnership (Oyster Harbour Seniors Community) [1p], Ladysmith

Pioneer Community Living Association (Pioneer House) [3], New Westminster

Pleasant View Housing Society 1980 (Pleasant View Care Home) [1], Mission

Point Grey Private Hospital Ltd. (Point Grey Private Hospital) [1p], Vancouver

Port Coquitlam Senior Citizens' Housing Society (Hawthorne Seniors Care Centre) [1], Port Coquitlam

### **Providence Health Care Society, Vancouver**

Holy Family Hospital [9]

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

St. Paul's Hospital

St. Vincent's Hospital – Brock Fahrni Pavilion [1]

St. Vincent's Hospital – Honoria Conway [1]

St. Vincent's Hospital – Langara [1]

Youville Residence

Providence Living Society (Central City Lodge) [1], Vancouver

Providence Living Society (Cooper Place Intermediate Care Facility) [1], Vancouver

Providence Living Society (The Views at St. Joseph's) [1], Comox

### **Provincial Health Services Authority**

Corporate Services Unit [9]

Information Management Information Technology Systems [9]

Lower Mainland Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Services [9]

Quesnel and District Child Development Centre Association (Quesnel Child Development Centre) [5], Quesnel

RainCity Housing and Support Society [3], Vancouver

Renfrew/Collingwood Seniors Society (Renfrew Collingwood Adult Day Care) [2], Vancouver

Residences for Independent Living Society (False Creek Residence, Steveston Residence) [1]

Richmond Intermediate Care Society (Rosewood Manor) [1], Richmond

Richmond Kinsmen Home Support Society (Richmond Kinsmen Adult Centre) [2]

Royal Arch Masonic Homes Society (Royal Arch Masonic Home) [1], Vancouver

Royal Ascot Care Centre Ltd. (Royal Ascot Care Centre) [1p], Vancouver

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Multi-level Care Society (Simon K.Y. Lee Care Home, Austin Harris Residence, and Harmony House) [1], Vancouver

Saint Elizabeth Health Services [7], Vancouver

Seniors Come Share Society (White Rock Day Program, Surrey Day Program) [2]

Shelmarie Rest Home (1994) Inc. (Shelmarie Rest Home) [1p], Victoria

Sherwood Crescent Manor Ltd. (The Mayfair) [1p], Clearbrook

Skipton Holdings Ltd. (Mountain View Home) [3p], Abbotsford  
Societe du Foyer Maillard (Foyer Maillard) [1], Maillardville  
St. Jude's Anglican Home (St. Jude's Anglican Home) [1], Vancouver  
St. Michael's Centre Hospital Society (St. Michael's Centre) [1], Burnaby  
Tabor Home Society (Tabor Home, Valhaven Care Home) [1], Abbotsford  
Tabor Home Society (Tabor Court) [1], Abbotsford  
Three Links Care Society, The (Three Links Care Centre) [1], Vancouver  
Trejan Lodge Ltd. (Trejan Lodge) [3p], Maple Ridge

### **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**

Adanac Park Lodge [1], Vancouver  
Bella Coola General Hospital, Bella Coola  
Cedar Garden [1], North Vancouver  
Cedarview Lodge [1], North Vancouver  
Dogwood Lodge [1], Vancouver  
G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre, Vancouver  
George Pearson Centre [9], Vancouver  
Health Services Delivery Area (North Shore/Coast Garibaldi) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Services, services provided by the former Coast Garibaldi Community Health Services Society [8]  
Health Services Delivery Area (North Shore/Coast Garibaldi) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Services, services provided by the former North Shore Health Region [8]  
Health Services Delivery Area (Richmond Community) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Services [8]  
Health Services Delivery Area (Vancouver Community) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health Services [8]

Howe Sound Home Support Service [7], Squamish  
Integrated Medical Imaging [9]  
Kiwanis Care Centre [1], North Vancouver  
Lions Gate Hospital/Evergreen House, North Vancouver  
Little Mountain Place [1], Vancouver  
Magnolia House [3], Vancouver  
North Shore Home Support [7] – Margaret Fulton Adult Day Centre [2] and West Vancouver Adult Day Centre [2]  
North Shore Community Mental Health [3], North Vancouver  
Pemberton Health Centre [9]  
Powell River General Hospital/Evergreen Extended Care, Powell River  
Powell River and District Home Support [7], Powell River  
Richmond Hospital, The  
Richmond Lions Manor [1], Richmond  
Richmond Mental Health Team and Richmond Mental Health Emergency Service [3]  
R.W. Large Memorial Hospital, Bella Bella  
Shorncliffe [1], Sechelt  
Squamish General Hospital/Hilltop House [3], Squamish  
Sunshine Coast Home Support [7], Sechelt  
St. Mary's Hospital/Totem Lodge [9], Sechelt  
Texada Island Health Centre, Gillies Bay  
Vancouver Community Mental Health Services [3]  
Vancouver Detox [9]  
Vancouver Hospital, UBC Pavilions  
Vancouver Hospital, 12th & Oak Pavilions

Whistler Health Care Centre [9], Whistler

Willingdon Creek Centre

### **Vancouver Island Health Authority**

Aberdeen Hospital [9], Victoria

Bamfield Health Centre [9]

Campbell River Home Support

Chemainus Health Care Centre [1], Chemainus

Comox Valley Home Support [7], Courtenay

Comox Valley Nursing Station [9], Courtenay

Cormorant Island Community Health Centre, Alert Bay

Cowichan District Hospital, Duncan

Cowichan Lodge Tertiary Mental Health Facility [3], Duncan

Cumberland Health Centre [9]

Eagle Park Health Care Facility [1], Qualicum Beach

Glengarry Hospital [9], Victoria

Gold River Health Clinic [9]

Gorge Road Hospital [9], Victoria

Health Services Delivery Area (Central Island) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health, Home Support [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (North Island) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health [8]

Health Services Delivery Area (South Island) – Public Health, Continuing Care, Mental Health [8]

Kyuquot Health Centre [9]

Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital, Salt Spring Island

Ladysmith Community Health Centre, Ladysmith

Mount Tolmie Hospital [9], Victoria

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

North Island Hospital, Campbell River & District  
North Island Hospital, Comox Valley Campus  
Oak Bay Lodge [1], Victoria  
Oceanside Health Centre [9] (Parksville)  
Port Alice Hospital  
Port Hardy Hospital  
Port McNeill Hospital  
Priory Hospital [9], Victoria  
Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, Victoria  
Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria  
Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Victoria  
Tahsis Health Centre  
Tofino General Hospital  
Trillium Lodge [1], Parksville  
Victoria General Hospital  
West Coast General Hospital, Port Alberni  
Yucalta Lodge [1], Campbell River  
Vancouver Island Mental Health Society (Gateway House) [3],  
Nanaimo  
VCPC Holdings Limited. (Chrysalis 22 & 24) [3p], Surrey  
Victoria Chinatown Care Society (Victoria Chinatown Care Centre) [1]  
Villa Cathay Care Home Society (Villa Cathay Care Home) [1],  
Vancouver  
Whalley & District Senior Citizens' Housing Society (Kinsmen Place  
Lodge) [1], Surrey  
Windermere Care Centre Inc. (Windermere Care Centre) [1p],  
Vancouver  
Yaletown House Society (Yaletown House) [1], Vancouver



## **HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION (HSA)**

Azimuth Health Program Management Ltd. (Barberry Lodge) [3p], Port Coquitlam

Baptist Housing Care Homes Society of B.C., The (Heights at Mount View) [1], Victoria

Coast Foundation Society (1974) (Coast Foundation) [3], Vancouver

Dania Home Society (Dania Home), Burnaby

### **Fraser Health Authority**

Abbotsford Regional Hospital

Burnaby Hospital

CRESST South Fraser [3], Surrey

Mission Memorial Hospital

Peace Arch Hospital, White Rock

Ridge Meadows Hospital and Health Care Centre, Maple Ridge

Surrey Memorial Hospital

Glacier View Lodge Society (Glacier View Lodge) [1], Comox

Good Shepherd Lodge Inc. (Good Shepherd Lodge) [3p], White Rock

Haro Park Centre Society (Haro Park Centre) [1], Vancouver

### **Interior Health Authority**

Castlegar and District Community Health Centre, Castlegar

Columbia View Lodge [1], Trail

Nelson Jubilee Manor [1]

Nicola Valley Health Centre, Merritt

Overlander Extended Care Hospital [9], Kamloops

Ponderosa Lodge [1], Kamloops

Queen Victoria Hospital, Revelstoke

Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops

Sunnybank Centre [1], Oliver

Swan Valley Lodge [1], Creston

Vernon Jubilee Hospital, Vernon

Joanne Novak (Gaumont Residence) [3p], Kamloops

Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services (Phoenix Centre) [4], Kamloops

KinVillage Association (KinVillage Care Home) [1], Delta

MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement Society (MPA – Motivation, Power and Achievement) [3], Vancouver

Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society [5]

New Vista Society, The (New Vista Care Home) [1], Burnaby

### **Northern Health Authority**

Bulkley Lodge, Smithers

Dawson Creek and District Hospital, Dawson Creek

Dunrovin Park Lodge [1], Quesnel

G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital, Quesnel

Pioneer Community Living Association (Adrian House; Millers Way; Lina's Place; CRESST Program and Pioneer Program) [3], New Westminster

Port Coquitlam Senior Citizens' Housing Society (Hawthorne Care Centre) [1], Port Coquitlam

### **Providence Health Care Society, Vancouver**

Holy Family Hospital [9]

Mount Saint Joseph Hospital

St. Paul's Hospital

St. Vincent's Hospital – Brock Fahmi Pavilion [1]

St. Vincent's Hospital – Langara [1]

Youville Residence

Providence Living Society (The Views at St. Joseph's) [1], Comox

Quesnel and District Child Development Association (Quesnel and District Child Development Centre) [5], Quesnel

### **Vancouver Coastal Health Authority**

Adanac Park Lodge [1], Vancouver

Cedarview Lodge [1], North Vancouver

George Pearson Centre [9], Vancouver

Lions Gate Hospital/Evergreen House, North Vancouver

Little Mountain Place [1], Vancouver

Magnolia House [3], Vancouver

Richmond Hospital, The

Richmond Lions Manor [1]

Squamish General Hospital/Hilltop House, Squamish

Vancouver Hospital, UBC Pavilions

### **Vancouver Island Health Authority**

Cowichan District Hospital (Duncan)

Gorge Road Hospital [9]

North Island Hospital, Campbell River and District

North Island Hospital, Comox Valley Campus

Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria

Trillium Lodge (Parksville) [1]

Victoria General Hospital

Vancouver Island Mental Health Society (Gateway House) [3],  
Nanaimo

Victoria Rest Home Ltd. (Victoria Rest Home) [3p], Victoria

**CHRISTIAN LABOUR ASSOCIATION OF CANADA,  
Local No. 501 (CLAC)**

Buena Vista Lodge Ltd. (Buena Vista Lodge) [3p], White Rock

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,  
Local No. 1004 (CUPE)**

PHS Community Services Society [6], Vancouver

**HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION (HEU)**

Canadian Mental Health Association – Cariboo Chilcotin Branch  
(Jubilee Care Centre) [3], Williams Lake

Coast Foundation Society (1974) (Coast Mental Health) [3],  
Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health (Bella Coola Home Support) [7]

**B.C. GENERAL EMPLOYEES' UNION (BCGEU)**

Arvand Investment Corporation (Britannia Lodge) [1], Vancouver

**Legend**

[p] Private Employer

[1] Long-Term Care

[2] Adult Day Care

[3] Mental Health

[4] Alcohol and Drug

[5] Child Development Centre

[6] Community Service Agency

[7] Home Support Agency

[8] Health Region or Community Health Service Society

[9] Other

## APPENDIX EE

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### INTEGRATION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES INTO THE NBA PROVINCIAL COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

The parties agree that the Nurses' Bargaining Association ("NBA") Provincial Collective Agreement will apply to Licensed Practical Nurses ("LPNs") effective the start of the first full pay period following May 11, 2016, except as set out below:

#### **1. Superior Benefits**

- a. The parties agree that all previously existing superior benefits to which LPNs were entitled under Employer-specific Memoranda of Understanding to the FBA and CBA collective agreements are extinguished.
- b. Notwithstanding above, the LPNs at Eagle Ridge Hospital in Fraser Health Authority will maintain superior benefits as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding previously agreed by the Hospital Employees' Union.

#### **2. Provisions of the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement that do not apply to LPNs**

- a. Article 11.04(A)(9) – Casual Employees – Client Specific Assignments
- b. Article 11.04(J)(2) – Probationary Period for Client Specific Casuals
- c. Article 26.02(1) – split shifts for client specific nurses
- d. Article 28.06 – OR/PAR/ER/ICU/CCU Premium
- e. Appendix "Q" – Client Specific Nurses from Home Support Agencies

#### **3. Provisions of the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement that are subject to a transition process that has been agreed to by the Parties**

- a. Article 11.03(a): The parties agree that the minimum fifteen (15) hours per week threshold for obtaining Regular Part-Time status will not apply to LPNs that, as of May 11, 2016,

were Regular Part-Time status employees, but worked less than fifteen (15) hours per week. Such LPNs will maintain their Regular Part-Time status until such time as:

- i. The LPN voluntarily changes their schedule, or
- ii. The Employer changes the LPN's schedule for a bona fide operational reason.

b. Classification Transition:

I. Some LPNs currently own a position that is correctly classified at Nurse Level 1 but they have been compensated at a rate of pay equivalent to supervisor Nurse Level 2, or have been in receipt of a special premium to recognize specialty training or to address other classification restraints that arose when they transitioned to the NBA from the Facilities Bargaining Association or Community Bargaining Association Collective Agreements.

- i. These employees will be identified and classified as Nurse Level 1 but will be 'Green Circled' and maintain their current Level 2 rate of pay/or special premium, and will receive all monetary increases under the current Collective Agreement, unless they voluntarily transfer (post into another position), resign, or retire. This protected wage rate/or special premium will remain in effect until March 31, 2019.
- ii. Effective April 1, 2019, these employees will have their wage rate 'Red Circled'.
- iii. Wage increment progression will continue as per the Collective Agreement.

#### **4. Seniority**

a. An LPN who becomes an RN/RPN and provides the Employer with RN/RPN registration, will have their seniority date as an RN/RPN adjusted in accordance with the collective agreement but in any case, no earlier than April 15, 2013.

If casual status, hours worked since April 15, 2013 would be credited as seniority hours (not more than 1950 per year).

- b. When an LPN provides the Employer with RN/RPN registration, this triggers the application of seniority which can then be used to apply on RN/RPN positions.
- c. The seniority list provided as per Article 13.06 will include all employees but the list must be provided in a format that allows the list to be sorted by LPNs and RN/RPNs.
- d. For the purposes of seniority-related benefits under the Collective Agreement such as first consideration for vacancy postings, displacement and vacation selection, there will be two separate seniority lists for LPNs and RNs/RPNs.

For clarity, an employee's seniority on one list cannot be used to access a seniority related benefit on the other.

- e. Employees may accrue seniority as both an LPN and an RN/RPN. These seniority lists are distinct and will not be combined for any purpose.
- f. Seniority on either list shall not be extinguished except as contemplated in the Collective Agreement. An employee who has seniority on both lists, but currently works and accrues seniority on only one list will have their seniority on the inactive list frozen. This frozen list will be reactivated should the employee begin again to work in that classification.
- g. Article 51: Portability applies to all seniority (LPN seniority and RN/RPN seniority).
- h. Employees who are dual registered as an LPN and as an RN/RPN will accrue seniority on the respective seniority list for the classification. A regular part-time LPN who also picks up extra shifts as an RN/RPN will have their RN/RPN seniority credited with those hours. The parties recognize this as an exception to seniority accumulation under Article 13 – Seniority.
- i. Employees who are dual registered as an LPN and as an RN/RPN will be paid the rate of the job with the exception of an RN/RPN who does not own a regular LPN position, is not on the casual LPN call list or has their LPN seniority frozen (not actively working as an LPN). These nurses will be paid their current RN/RPN wage rate for the work in either classification.

- j. Employees who are dual registered and working as an LPN and as an RN/RPN:
- shall be restricted to one status: regular full-time, regular part-time or casual
  - may hold multiple regular positions provided their FTE is equal to or less than 1.0 FTE.

## **APPENDIX FF**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENTS IN DISPUTE MANAGEMENT; BRITISH COLUMBIA HEALTHCARE OFFICE OF ARBITRATION**

The parties agree to establish the British Columbia Healthcare Office of Arbitration (“BCHOA”) in order to:

- a. expedite/shorten the length of time to resolve disputes;
- b. provide continuity of contract interpretation;
- c. establish best practices for good labour relations; and
- d. analyze utilization and cost data.

The BCHOA is intended to assist the parties to expedite final resolution of differences that arise between HEABC and its member health employers and the NBA and its constituent unions of the NBA regarding the interpretation, application and administration of the Provincial Collective Agreement (“PCA”).

The BCHOA will be established using, but not limited to, the following principles:

#### **1. Jurisdiction**

- a. All grievances and disputes between Health Employers Association of British Columbia (“HEABC”) and Nurses Bargaining Association (“NBA”) will be adjudicated in this BCHOA.
- b. Arbitrators appointed to the BCHOA will have full jurisdiction over all matters relating to the PCA, including disputes related to employer policies, workplace practices, staffing, and all pertinent statutes, i.e., labour codes and human rights legislation.



## **2. Administration**

- a. The administrative responsibilities for providing and administering necessary clerical staff, and other arrangements necessary to enable the arbitrators to exercise their function will be discharged by an Administrative Group comprised of the parties to this agreement (“the AG”).
- b. The expenses of operating and administering the BCHOA, including the fees and expenses of the arbitrators and all necessary clerical and technical assistance will be shared equally.
- c. The BCHOA will maintain a complete and accurate record of all disputes and accompanying outcomes.
- d. Guidelines governing the operation of the BCHOA will be established and/or amended as deemed necessary by the AG.
- e. The BCHOA will report the decision in each dispute and the reasons for such decisions to all parties in the dispute.
- f. The BCHOA will maintain a complete and accurate record of all disputes submitted to it, and of all decisions made by an arbitrator or other dispositions respecting them, including the signed originals of all such decisions.

## **3. Staffing**

- a. The AG will be responsible for all BCHOA staffing.
- b. The AG will appoint one (1) First Arbitrator (“FA”), one (1) Second Arbitrator (“SA”) and one (1) Registrar of the BCHOA (“Registrar”).

### **Arbitrators**

- c. The FA will have conduct of all cases referred to the BCHOA for adjudication.
- d. The FA may elect to direct the adjudication of a dispute, in whole or in part, to either the SA or the Registrar.
- e. The FA shall be responsible for ensuring that the SA and Registrar receive appropriate support in discharging adjudicative duties.

- f. The term of an arbitrator's appointment will be three years.
- g. An arbitrator may be replaced at any time by mutual agreement.

### **Registrar**

- h. The Registrar will be responsible for the day to day operation of the BCHOA and will report to the AG. In addition, the Registrar will ensure that all policies and procedures of the BCHOA are followed by the parties.
- i. The Registrar may conduct hearings with respect to any procedural or policy issues, in relation to the BCHOA, which the parties have either not complied with or have sought to waive or temporarily amend.
- j. The Registrar will not have the authority to permanently amend any rules/policies/procedures of the BCHOA.
- k. The Registrar will have the appropriate administrative assistance required in carrying out their duties.

### **Arbitration Process**

- a. All disputes referred to the BCHOA must either be fully completed or withdrawn in accordance with the following:
  - i. Disputes shall be adjudicated within three streams, all of which shall be precedent setting (unless mutually agreed otherwise), final and binding upon the parties.
  - ii. Full Arbitration (i.e. matters of mutual significance)
    - 1. The parties to a dispute submitted to the BCHOA may, at full arbitration hearings, be represented by counsel or otherwise as they may respectively elect.
  - iii. Expedited Arbitration (Primary vehicle for dispute resolution)
    - 1. It is expected that disputes submitted by the parties will be presented by employees of HEABC/ HA and NBA Unions.
  - iv. Mediation/Arbitration
    - 1. Only available by mutual agreement of the parties.

This agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

2. In cases where mediation results in a settlement between the parties, such settlements will be finalized and reported through Consent Awards.
  - b. The arbitrator will not decide a dispute without a hearing. An Arbitrator shall have the ability to define the scope and parameters of a hearing consistent with (f) below.
  - c. Each party to a dispute shall have the right to examine all witnesses called to give evidence at the hearing.
  - d. Any decision of the arbitrator will not in any case amend, add to, subtract from, modify, rescind or disregard any provision of the applicable collective agreement.
  - e. An arbitrator may direct the production of any information which they deem proper and may require that the examination of witnesses be under oath or affirmation.
  - f. The arbitrator shall not be bound by the rules of evidence and practice applicable to proceedings before courts of record, but may receive, hear, request and consider any evidence which they may consider relevant.

#### **Additional principles/policies/procedures:**

The parties recognize that the establishment of the BCHOA will require the development of policies and procedures which will enable the BCHOA to operate.

HEABC and the NBA will work to develop standardized instruments including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A system for electronic filing and shared tracking of grievances, both filed and as advanced to arbitration;
2. A shared and common grievance numbering system;
3. A shared and common grievance form;
4. Template instruments to be used for discipline investigations that will form part of the particulars used in the event a discipline grievance proceeds to arbitration; and
5. Template instruments for classification disputes.

In addition, the grievance and arbitration procedure set out in Article 9 and 10 of NBA collective agreement will require amendment in order to give effect to the BCHOA. Specifically, the parties agree to replace the current three (3) step grievance procedure outlined in Article 9 of the NBA with a two (2) step process which will include the initial discussion between the potential grievor, with a steward and the manager and one (1) formal meeting between the Employer and the Union.

The parties agree to meet within two (2) months post ratification of the collective agreement to conclude any and all work required to make the BCHOA operational.

### **USE OF BCHOA BY NON-SIGNATORIES**

HEABC and the NBA agree that other bargaining associations (e.g. Community Subsector Association of Bargaining Agents, Facilities Subsector Association of Unions, and Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association) may join the BCHOA. If a bargaining association wishes to join the BCHOA, that association must do so by making an application directly to the BCHOA.

The AG will be responsible for ensuring that incoming associations can be supported without impacting the rights/priorities of existing BCHOA signatories. This may include changes in relation to number of arbitrators to be appointed; the arbitrator(s)' jurisdiction over which collective agreement(s); cost-sharing arrangements; and other issues.

## **APPENDIX GG**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PRECEPTOR PREMIUM**

Preceptorships involve a formal relationship of a pre-determined length of time between a preceptor and a preceptee.

A preceptee is:

- (a) a student who requires regulatory supervision to practice in a clinical setting while in:
  - a. an entry-level program recognized by the BCCNM,
  - b. a specialty education program (including in-house specialty programs), or

- c. a program from other provinces or territories in Canada approved by the applicable regulator; or
- (b) an internationally trained nurse who is granted provisional licensure by the BCCNM and requires supervision to complete their competency assessments.

(the “Preceptee”)

A preceptor is a nurse designated by the Employer based on educational and regulatory requirements to provide supervision for a Preceptee (the “Preceptor”). Nurses acting as a Preceptor take on greater responsibility and accountability for both the activities and overall learning of a Preceptee. This may include a licensed practical nurse, licensed graduate nurse, registered nurse, or a registered psychiatric nurse. Duties of a Preceptor may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Authorizing student actions,
- (b) Assessing readiness for more complex duties,
- (c) Monitoring and reporting on learning goals and outcomes as related to the identified competencies,
- (d) Obtaining consent from clients before authorizing a student to provide care,
- (e) Assessing and mitigating risk arising from nursing student activities, and
- (f) Organizing supervision from other nurses for student activities.

In recognition of the greater responsibility, accountability, and additional duties, effective one hundred and twenty (120) days post ratification, a nurse designated by the Employer to act as a Preceptor will be paid a premium of \$1.50 per hour worked for the entire shift (the “Preceptor Premium”).

**APPENDIX HH**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

The Health Authorities/Providence Health Care agree that consolidating the number of job descriptions is an important objective and are committed to this process.

Within ninety (90) days of ratification and quarterly thereafter, each Health Authority/Providence Health Care will provide the NBA with the number of job descriptions it has for each existing profile.

Within ninety (90) days of ratification, each Health Authority/Providence Health Care will begin a process of consolidating and reducing its job descriptions. By March 31, 2014, each Health Authority/ Providence Health Care will have reduced its total number of job descriptions for registered nurses to no more than sixty (60) per Health Authority/Providence Health Care. Thereafter, the Employer will continue its efforts to reduce job descriptions.

In addition, the Health Authorities/Providence Health Care will commence a process of working together to seek opportunities for common job descriptions across Health Authorities/Providence Health Care.

During the 2016 collective bargaining, the Employer proposed a cancelling of Appendix HH. The Employer reported that some Health Authorities had achieved the goal of sixty (60) job descriptions per Health Authority while other Health Authorities had not. The Employer reported that the number sixty (60) was too low due to organizational structure. The example of this was PHSA.

The Union believes it is important to have a full understanding of job descriptions. The original letter listed above was designed to have a more appropriate number of job descriptions as some Employers had over one thousand (1,000).

The Union and the Employer agree that in the six (6) months following the ratification of the Collective Agreement, the employers and the Union, utilizing the assistance of the Nursing Staffing Secretariat, will deal with this matter and come to a viable conclusion.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STAFFING PROVISIONS OF THE NBA PROVINCIAL COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT (“PCA”)**

The 2014-2019 NBA Provincial Collective Agreement included a Letter of Agreement (LOA) re Implementation of Safe Staffing Provisions of the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement – Appendix II. The

LOA was limited to the term of the Agreement and extinguished March 31, 2019.

The LOA included language which established the Nurse Staffing Secretariat (“NSS”) and Nurse Staffing Secretariat Steering Committee (“NSC”). During bargaining of the 2019-2022 NBA Provincial Collective Agreement, the Parties agreed that continuation of the NSS and NSC, consistent with other language in this Agreement including the MOA establishing the Strategic Nurse Staffing Committees, was important.

The Parties further agreed that a collaborative approach will support addressing staffing issues.

**Therefore, the Parties agree as follows:**

**Nurse Staffing Secretariat Steering Committee (“NSC”)**

1. The Parties agree to continue the NSC.
2. The NSC will:
  - a. Provide input to the Ministry of Health and Health Authorities/PHC on strategic level, health human resource plans;
  - b. Work with Health Authorities/PHC on system-wide or regional/local solutions to address issues related to staffing;
  - c. Work with Health Authorities/PHC to support initiatives which address appropriate staffing; and
  - d. Review, monitor, and report to the Parties on implementation of key staffing related provisions of the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement.
3. The NSS Steering Committee shall be comprised of:
  - a. one (1) senior representative from MOH (co-chair);
  - b. two (2) senior representatives from an NBA Union (co-chair);
  - c. two (2) senior representative from HA; and
  - d. one (1) senior representative from HEABC.
4. Decisions of the NSC will be made by consensus.

## **Nurse Staffing Secretariat (“NSS”):**

1. HEABC and the NBA will continue the NSS. The NSS will work in collaboration with representatives from the MOH, HAs and the NBA to carry out its duties.
2. The NSS will:
  - a. Review NSS referrals to the NSC from the 2014-2019 NBA Collective Agreement and make recommendations to the NSC for resolution of these referrals;
  - b. Support data and reporting requirements necessary for the evaluation and tracking of key staffing related provisions of the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement;
  - c. Support the Strategic Nurse Staffing Committees, as requested;
  - d. Provide expert support for employers attempting to resolve staffing related issues;
  - e. Provide expert advice and support to employers in efforts to reduce six (6) consecutive shift blocks; and
  - f. Lead or support other staffing related initiatives, as agreed by the Parties.

## **APPENDIX II.1**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **STRATEGIC NURSE STAFFING COMMITTEE**

1. HEABC and the NBA have a shared commitment to addressing long-term staffing needs for the Health Authorities/Providence Health Care. The parties have agreed to establish a Strategic Nurse Staffing Committee (SNSC) at each Health Authority/Providence Health Care. The SNSC will replace the existing Nurse Relations Committee.
2. The purpose of the Health Authority/Providence Health Care SNSCs are to consult on health authority level nurse workforce planning including trends, activities and initiatives related to the following:
  - Regularization of hours



- Recruitment and retention strategies
- Regular relief positions
- Other relief needs
- Nurse education and training (including specialty nursing)
- Seasonal strategies
- Annual vacation
- Substantial health service delivery initiatives
- Other organization wide staffing matters

For the purposes of this work, consult means seeking advice from, listening to and acknowledging the concerns of the Union. It includes data sharing and providing feedback on how the Union's input influenced the decision.

3. In addition to the long-term staffing strategies, the Committee will review organizational approaches to short-term staffing needs.
4. The SNSCs shall not engage in discussions regarding general labour relations issues, occupational health & safety issues or professional practice issues, which shall be raised and addressed through the appropriate collective agreement process.
5. The SNSC will be provided relevant and available health authority/PHC-level data, including analytical support. Data will also be made available to the Union upon request. Health authorities/PHC will bi-annually provide the Union with relevant and available health authority/PHC-level staffing data in either Microsoft Excel or .csv format regarding:
  - a. Regular straight-time hours,
  - b. Casual straight-time hours,
  - c. Overtime hours,
  - d. Part-time hours over FTE,
  - e. On-call hours,
  - f. Call-back hours, and
  - g. Relief not found.

6. Each SNSC will meet bi-monthly on dates determined by the committee members, and/or at the call of the Co-chairs. The SNSC will be composed of eight (8) members, four (4) appointed by each the Employer, one (1) of whom will be a senior operational leader and one (1) of whom will be a professional practice lead, and the Union, one (1) of whom will be a labour relations coordinator and one (1) of whom will be a professional practice officer. Each SNSC may determine to include other representatives to assist or provide expertise as mutually agreed to by the committee members. Co-chairs, one (1) member from Employer and one (1) member from the Union, will be selected.
7. The Co-chairs will meet prior to each SNSC meeting in order to determine and agree to agenda items. The agenda will be circulated two (2) weeks in advance of each meeting by the SNSC Co-chairs. Discussions, recommendations and decisions of each SNSC will be recorded in formal committee minutes. The SNSC meetings will be scheduled with sufficient time to address all items on the agenda.
8. An agreed to joint communications document will be completed each meeting and shared by the Employer and Union.
9. Each SNSC shall report quarterly to the Nurse Staffing Secretariat Steering Committee (NSC) via the Nurse Staffing Secretariat (NSS) on work, both successes and challenges. The SNSCs may access support from the NSS.
10. The SNSC will be reviewed annually to determine its effectiveness. The NSS will draft measurable metrics for determining effectiveness.

## APPENDIX JJ

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between:

Health Employers Association of BC (“HEABC”)

And:

Nurses’ Bargaining Association (“NBA”)

And:

Ministry of Health (“MOH”)

(collectively “the Parties”)

### STRATEGIC AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

#### Public Sector Governance and Accountability

The Ministry of Health and Health Authorities are taking important steps to strengthen governance and accountability in the health system in British Columbia. On a strategic level, this action is informed by the Ministry of Health document *Setting Priorities for the BC Health System*, which sets out government’s strategic priorities for the delivery of health care services, including:

- A renewed focus on patient-centered care in health service delivery systems and policy development;
- A focus on health service performance management and accountability through continuous quality improvement; and,
- A cross system focus on a number of key patient populations and service delivery areas those are critical to both quality and sustainability.

*Setting Priorities* also highlights the need to strengthen and clarify relationships, both across the public sector and within the health sector, in order to promote strategic collaboration.

#### Strengthening the Relationship with Nurses

Within this context, the Ministry and Health Authorities are committed to and will be mutually accountable for strengthening and clarifying their relationship with BCNU/NBA at the provincial, regional and

local levels. At the provincial level, this will be carried out through constructive engagement and dialogue between senior executives of the Ministry and Health Authorities and the BCNU/NBA, primarily through a number of key individual points of contact as well as the senior decision making committees of the Ministry, Health Authorities and BCNU/NBA, Constructive engagement and dialogue between the Parties is intended to:

- Enable effective alignment of strategic planning on issues significantly affecting nurses and their ability to provide patient-centred care;
- Enable strategic level discussions on major issues/policies affecting the Parties to this agreement;
- Support the development of effective relationships at senior decision making levels; and
- Support the improvement of engagement and consultation and mutual accountability between BCNU/NBA and Health Authorities at Regional and Local levels throughout the province.

The following are the key interactive contacts for the Parties:

**a) Deputy Minister of Health – President of the BCNU/Chairperson of the NBA**

On an annual basis, the Deputy Minister of Health shall hold a meeting with the President of the BCNU and Chairperson of the NBA to share and discuss the Ministry of Health's strategic priorities for the upcoming year and any other provincial level issues affecting nurses.

**b) Leadership Council – President of the BCNU/Chairperson of the NBA**

On a quarterly basis, Leadership Council shall provide the President of the BCNU and the Chairperson of the NBA with the opportunity to meet with the Leadership Council and to submit proposals or issues for consideration that relate to strategic direction and policy where the following criteria are met:

- i. The proposal or issue relates to a significant operational change arising from strategic policy direction as it affects nurse staff, including consideration of best practices for change management; or,

- ii. The proposal or issue arises from research or policy initiatives undertaken by the BCNU/NBA.
- c) Health Authority CEOs – President of the BCNU /Chairperson of the NBA**

On an annual basis, each Health Authority CEO, along with certain members of their Senior Executive Team, will hold a meeting with the President of the BCNU and the Chairperson of the NBA as part of the Health Authority's annual strategic planning cycle. This meeting will provide a forum for the Health Authority to seek and for the BCNU/NBA to provide input on any significant proposed operational changes in each Health Authority arising from provincial strategic policy direction as it affects nurses, including consideration of best practices for change management.

### **Requests for Disclosure of Information**

Any requests for disclosure of information related to the aforementioned process for constructive engagement and dialogue shall be reasonable in scope. Any information that is disclosed shall be used solely for the purpose of enhancing constructive engagement and dialogue.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Nothing in this Memorandum limits the exclusive legal authority of the Ministry or Health Authorities to make decisions with respect to matters within their purview, nor will the process of constructive engagement and dialogue constrain the Ministry or Health Authorities from implementing change in the organization and delivery of services.

Nothing in this Memorandum limits the rights of the BCNU/NBA as provided for in the Provincial Collective Agreement between the Health Employers Association and the NBA.

### **Separate Agreement**

This Memorandum is a separate and distinct agreement and its construction is not to be influenced or affected by the provisions of the Provincial Collective Agreement between the Health Employers Association of BC and the NBA. The provisions of the NBA collective agreement do not apply to this Memorandum.

### **Resolution of Disagreements**

If any of the Parties has a concern respecting this Memorandum,

the President of the BCNU, the Chairperson of the NBA, the President of HEABC, the Deputy Ministry of Health and/or the Health Authority CEOs will meet to attempt to resolve these issues. Failing resolution, there are no further steps under this Memorandum to address such concerns.

## **Bill 29 Meetings**

The regular meetings established under this Memorandum shall replace the regular Bill 29 meetings that are currently required under the NBA Bill 29 Settlement Agreement. As such, regularly scheduled Bill 29 meetings shall no longer take place.

## **APPENDIX JJ.1**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **EDUCATION FOR NURSES LINKED TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The commitments set out below will exist outside the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement and are in support of advancing the Ministry of Health's strategic priorities for the health care system in British Columbia.

The Ministry of Health and Health Authorities will provide funding to the NBA in the amount of \$5 million to be used for education for nurses linked to advancing the strategic agenda in the areas of community care of frail and medically complex seniors, including long-term care and mental health and substance use, as well as for advancement across the career ladder.

The NBA may at its own discretion contribute additional funding to the support these objectives from the Training and Education Fund. HEABC agrees that this letter meets the requirement of the Employer's agreement under the NBA Provincial Collective Agreement Appendix YY.

The NBA will provide the Ministry of Health with a plan for use of the \$5 million and will provide reporting on use of the funds to the Ministry of Health upon request.

**APPENDIX JJ.2**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**SPECIALTY EDUCATION**

The participants agree to the benefit of continuing to collaborate on specialty education. The parties will model out projected needed specialty nursing FTEs for the term of the agreement. Health Authorities/Ministry of Health will provide funding for specialty education for at least 850 FTEs for fiscal year 2016 – 2017 and then adequate funding for required FTEs for at least two (2) additional years and for the balance of the agreement.

**APPENDIX JJ.3**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**NURSING SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

**Background**

The scope of practice for Licensed Practical Nurses (“LPN”s), Registered Nurses (“RN”s) and Registered Psychiatric Nurses (“RP-N”s) are set out in the Nurses (Licensed Practical), the Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners and the Nurses (Registered Psychiatric) regulations under the *Health Professions Act* (the “Act”). These scopes of practice are complemented by standards, limits and conditions that are set by the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals, as well as by employer policies and an individual nurse’s competence to carry out a particular activity.

The Ministry of Health has recently completed updates to the scope of practice regulations for LPNs, RNs and RPNs under the Act, and is now in a position to work collaboratively with Health Authorities, Colleges and the NBA in consultation with others to ensure these scopes are optimized in practice settings across the continuum of care and in every part of the province.

The Parties recognize that the delivery of care requires well-functioning teams that value the contributions of all members. Research has shown that “Successful high functioning teams [are] fluid, confident, non-hierarchical, patient-focused and include the right nurses in the right job. Team members [have] autonomy over decisions within their scope of practice. They [make] decisions about complex patients

through collaboration, negotiation and recognition of each member's expertise." 2014 Bauman et al. 01 (Reference: High Functioning Nurse Teams: Collaborative Decisions for Quality Patient Care Bauman, et al NSRU – Health Human Resources Series 40 November 2014) Research will be utilized to ensure that effective teams are supported which enable nurses to utilize their skills and abilities in order to effectively meet the needs of patients/clients/residents.

## **Nursing Policy Secretariat**

To that end, the Ministry has established a Nursing Policy Secretariat that as part of its role will:

1. Review current legislation, regulation, other standards, limits and conditions, and other types of practice restrictions to determine where there are opportunities to expand nursing practice to respond to patient and population health needs and the evolution of service design in British Columbia. The review will commence in early 2019. As part of the review, the Nursing Policy Secretariat will consult with Health Authorities ("HA"s), Colleges, the NBA and other partners.
2. Review any conditions set by the Colleges that require education through a named agency or additional education, and support the creation of a standard provincial approach for nurses to meet these conditions such that nurses will not need to retake this education solely because they change employers.
3. Review any other limits or conditions set by the College to determine whether there is an opportunity to advocate for the adjustment or revision of these conditions.
4. Prioritize key opportunities for action based on the above by the Nursing Policy Secretariat in April 2017.
5. Review any concerns related to inconsistencies in permitted scopes of practice for nurses within a HA where:
  - a. The HA has approved a method to allow nurses to satisfy any limits or conditions associated with an activity;
  - b. The HA has allowed nurses to perform this activity in some settings and not others;



- c. The HA's professional practice office and the BCNU's professional practice department have discussed the variability;
- d. The rationale provided is not acceptable to the BCNU professional practice department; and
- e. The BCNU professional practice department refers the matter to the Nursing Policy Secretariat.

### **Nursing Career Pathways**

1. To reflect a strengthened professional practice commitment, the Parties agree that a robust career pathway for nurses will enhance recruitment and retention and support the delivery of safe patient care. Therefore, the Parties understand that the NBA will use part of their education fund to assist nurses in accessing education related to moving across the career ladder. In particular, the priorities for the NBA are:
  - a. Increasing LPN scope of practice through advanced competencies;
  - b. Supporting LPN to RN and LPN to RPN education and placement;
  - c. Supporting RN/RPN diploma nurses in achieving their Nursing Baccalaureate degree;
  - d. Increasing RN scope of practice through advanced competencies in areas such as anesthesia assistants, surgical assistants, and discharge authority;
  - e. Increasing RPN scope of practice through advanced competencies; and
  - f. Strengthening LPN, RN and RPN nurse leadership roles and skills across the health system.

### **Increased Nursing Scope of Practice**

The Parties recognize that the BCNU has tabled three (3) proposals regarding the expansion of LPN, RN and RPN nursing scope of practice. The Parties further recognize that an expanded scope of practice for all nurses is essential to meet increased patient acuity as well as to provide further career development.

In recognition of this, the Parties in the future will consider the proposals tabled by the BCNU, attached as Appendices A, B and C to this Memorandum of Agreement.

### **Funding for Additional Opportunities**

The parties agree to establish a joint committee which will be responsible for providing funding for nursing professional development opportunities and education to expand nurses' scope of practice. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, programs such as LPN Orthopaedic Tech, RN First Assist, RN First Call, Integrated Primary Care Nursing and RN Anesthetists. Health Authorities/PHC who are currently developing scope enhancement education may also apply to the committee for funding.

The committee will be comprised of one (1) member from the NBA and one (1) member from HEABC. The committee will receive one-time funding of \$1.4 million and will be responsible to determining how these funds will be allocated based on mutually agreed criteria.

The committee will meet within sixty (60) days of ratification of the term of this Agreement to determine Terms of Reference and funding criteria.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **RN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

The parties recognize that utilizing RNs consistently to their full scope of practice as well as expanding RN roles and services will result in more effective delivery of patient care and a significant cost-savings to the Employer.

Therefore, the Parties agree to the following:

- (a) The Employer will standardize RN services to include prescribing, suturing, ordering routine lab work and diagnostics and discharging. Standardization shall be completed no later than six (6) months following ratification of this agreement.
- (b) Each Employer will also conduct a comprehensive review with the Union and the Professional Practice Office of current RN utilization in each worksite.

The purpose of this review is to expand the utilization of RNs in the health sector. This review shall include, but shall not be limited to, incorporating: RN First Assist, RN First Call, Integrated Primary Care Nursing and RN Anesthetists.

The review at each Employer shall commence no later than six (6) months following ratification and shall conclude no later than eighteen (18) months following ratification of this agreement. At the conclusion of the review each Employer and the Union shall submit joint or independent recommendations to the PNC for implementation.

The Parties agreed that this Appendix A will not be utilized in any arbitration or legal proceeding.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **RPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

The Parties recognize that patient comorbidities have evolved and continue to evolve to include mental health disorders. As such, utilizing RPNs consistently to work to their full scope of practice is beneficial to both the health sector and to nurses.

To this end, allowing RPNs access to entry level medical positions is both consistent within their current scope of practice and necessary for the care of the current patient population.

Therefore, the Parties agree to the following:

- (a) RPNs will have access to entry level medical positions. In addition, RPNs will have access to positions on all units, departments or programs where mental health disorders are a significant concern. This includes, but is not limited to, emergency units, community programs, pediatrics and long-term care facilities.
- (b) Each Employer will conduct a comprehensive review with the Union and the Professional Practice Office of current RPN utilization in each worksite.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that RPNs will be used consistently within each Employer. This review shall commence no later than six (6) months following ratification and shall conclude no later than eighteen (18) months following ratification of this agreement.

At the conclusion of the review, each Employer and the Union shall submit joint or independent recommendations to the PNC for implementation.

The Parties agreed that this Appendix B will not be utilized in any arbitration or legal proceeding.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **LPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

The Parties recognize that LPNs working across different employers, units, worksites, programs and facilities have an unequal application of their provincial scope of practice. In order to implement consistency in provincial LPN scope of practice as well as generate cost-savings to the Employer, it is necessary to harmonize provincial LPN scope of practice across the health sector.

The Parties further recognize that the necessary support and appropriate education must be in place to enable LPNs to consistently practice to their full provincial scope of practice across the health sector.

Therefore, the Parties agree to the following:

- Each Employer will ensure that LPNs are working consistently to their full provincial scope of practice. To that end, each Employer will conduct a comprehensive review with the Union and the Professional Practice Office of current LPN utilization in each worksite.
- Where the review identifies areas where LPNs are not working consistently to their full provincial scope of practice, the Employer shall implement the necessary changes to allow this to occur.
- The review shall include, but shall not be limited to, utilization of LPNs to do immunizations, IV therapy (including IV medications), advanced wound care and working in community settings (including palliative care).
- This review at each Employer shall commence no later than six (6) months following ratification and shall conclude no later than eighteen (18) months following the ratification of this agreement.

- At the conclusion of the review, each Employer and the Union shall submit joint or independent recommendations to the PNC for implementation.

The Parties agreed that this Appendix C will not be utilized in any arbitration or legal proceeding.

**APPENDIX JJ.4**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING**

**Whereas:**

The Parties have a shared interest in pursuing solutions to nurse recruitment and retention issues presently faced by health employers operating in rural and remote communities.

**Therefore, the NBA and MOH agree that:**

1. The Parties will conduct a joint review of Rural/Remote nursing issues.
2. The purpose of this review will be to identify immediate and pressing nurse recruitment and retention issues.
3. The review will be conducted in each of the following health authorities and shall be conducted by one (1) employee of the health authority and one (1) representative from the NBA:
  - a. Northern Health;
  - b. Interior Health;
  - c. Island Health; and
  - d. Vancouver Coastal Health.
4. The review will commence no later than three (3) months following ratification of the PCA and be completed no later than six (6) months following ratification of the PCA.
5. Upon completion of the review the Parties will submit joint recommendations, on solutions to issues identified by the review, to MOH for approval. Once approved the recommendations shall be implemented.

6. Where health authority and NBA's appointees conducting the joint review cannot reach agreement regarding whether a particular measure should, or should not, be recommended, either party may send unilateral recommendations to the NPS which will determine whether implementation is appropriate.
7. The Ministry of Health will allocate \$2,000,000 to implement approved recommendations.

## **APPENDIX KK**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY PROCESS**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement is to clarify and streamline the process through which professional practice problems are addressed.

#### **Background**

In the 2014-2019 NBA Collective Agreement, the parties restructured the professional responsibility ("PR") process under Article 59 (Professional Responsibility Clause) and improved collaboration through the creation of PR guidelines and joint education.

Since a large majority of PR concerns were related to staffing, the parties also agreed that it was necessary to address these concerns through an alternative process.

#### **Professional Responsibility Process**

The parties now agree to a revised PR process to address only professional practice problems, which includes any practice problem related to the Nursing Standards of Practice of the provincial regulatory body including those which may put patients, residents and/or clients at risk.

The parties agree to implement the following collaborative, problem-solving process for Health Authorities/PHC:

1. If a professional practice problem arises, the nurse will have a discussion with their excluded manager or excluded designate to try to address the practice problem at the local level.

At their discretion, the nurse may choose to bring a colleague to the discussion.

The nurse or the manager may seek advice from the Health Authority/PHC Professional Practice Office (“PPO”) and/or the Provincial Union Professional Practice Department or designate as advised by the Union (the “Union PPD”).

The nurse and the manager should discuss the practice problem and agree on a reasonable timeframe to implement changes and/or complete further follow-up. The nurse and manager may include other participants as needed, such as a nurse educator, to assist with addressing the practice problem.

The parties’ mutual intention is to collaborate on solutions that address the practice problem. It is recognized that achieving solutions may involve further work by the manager and/or the nurse prior to resolving the practice problem.

2. Prior to any escalation of the practice problem, if the Health Authority/PHC PPO was not involved in the discussions, the PPO will review the practice problem and may assist the nurse and the manager to resolve it.
3. If the nurse believes that the PPO is not available within a reasonable timeframe, the practice problem has not been fully addressed or that the implementation timeframe is not reasonable after involving the Health Authority/PHC PPO, the nurse may submit a Professional Responsibility Form (PRF) to the excluded manager. A copy of the PRF will be sent to the Health Authority/PHC PPO and the Union PPD.
4. The Union PPD will review the PRF and may have further discussions with the nurse and/or the Health Authority/PHC PPO.
5. If the practice problem is not resolved, the Union PPD will create a report outlining the practice problem, a summary of any solutions identified by the parties, any further recommendations, and any outstanding concerns.
6. This report will be sent to the respective Health Authority/PHC Chief Nursing officer (“CNO”) with a copy sent to the Health Authority/PHC PPO, the nurse and the manager. The CNO will acknowledge receipt of the report in writing to the parties and will provide a response including any further actions suggested, or agreed to, by the CNO.

The parties agree to implement the following collaborative, problem-solving process for Affiliates:

1. Where the nurse identifies a professional practice problem, they will initiate a discussion with the excluded manager or excluded designate. At their discretion, the nurse may choose to bring a colleague to the discussion.

The nurse and the excluded manager or excluded designate:

- a) will collaborate on solutions;
  - b) will agree on a reasonable timeframe to implement changes and/or complete further follow-up;
  - c) may include other participants in the discussion as needed (e.g. educator); and
  - d) may seek advice from the provincial regulatory body and/or Union PPD.
2. If the practice problem is not resolved, the nurse will fill out a PRF and copy the Union PPD, the excluded manager and the Affiliate Executive Director.
  3. The Union PPD will review the PRF and may have further discussions with the nurse, excluded manager, excluded designate and/or the Affiliate Executive Director.
  4. If the practice problem remains unresolved:
    - a) the Union PPD will create a report as described in paragraph 5 above and send it to the Affiliate Executive Director with a copy to the nurse and the excluded manager;
    - b) the Affiliate Executive Director will acknowledge receipt of the report in writing to the parties and will provide a response including any further actions suggested, or agreed to, by the Affiliate Executive Director.

The parties further agree that:

- (A) Staffing and workload issues will be addressed through a separate process.
- (B) Nurse safety issues are addressed through Article 32 – Occupational Health and Safety Program and the *Workers Compensation Act*.



- (C) Ongoing, timely communication is an important element in the PR process.
- (D) The PR process is a joint problem-solving and learning process and is not expected to result in any discipline.
- (E) The PR process is not a labour relations process. If the nurse brings a colleague to the discussions who is also a Union steward they will attend in a support role only.
- (F) Funding for additional professional practice resources per Health Authority/PHC and Affiliates will be provided through this Agreement, to be determined and mutually agreed by the parties. Such resources may include additional work to support point of care nurses through mentorship, leadership and/or other means agreed by the parties.
- (G) Within sixty (60) days of ratification:
  - i. The parties will create a PR working group comprised of up to three (3) representatives each from the Employer and the Union.
  - ii. The PR working group will communicate to the Health Authorities/PHC that all outstanding PRFs at the Health Authority/PHC Senior Review Committee (“SRC”), or in referral stage, will stay at the SRC level through until their closure.
  - iii. The union PPD will review all PRFs filed December 1, 2017 up to and including date of ratification and identify those related to practice problems. The PRFs related to practice problems will be brought to the PR working group.

The remaining PRFs will be themed. The Union PPD will prepare a report for the Health Authority/ PHC Vice President of Human Resources. The Health Authority/PHC will review the report and provide a summary of the outcome(s) to the Strategic Nurse Staffing Committee.
  - iv. Effective the date of ratification, nurses will continue to raise and discuss practice problems with their excluded manager or excluded designate to try to address the practice problem at the local level. The nurse or the man-

ager may seek advice from the Health Authority/PHC PPO and/or the Union PPD or designate as advised by the Union PPD.

- (H) Within a further ninety (90) days, the PR working group will:
- i. Review the outstanding PRFs identified by the Union PPD in (G)(iii) above and apply for the new PR process.
  - ii. Develop and deliver a joint communication that will outline the process that is underway, advise authors and the Employer that the PR file is closed, and provide the authors' options under the new process.
  - iii. Create a new mutually agreeable Professional Responsibility form (PRF), joint guidelines and education, a communication plan on the new process and the new PRF, and other matters as mutually agreed by the parties.
- (I) The PR working group will determine a provincial evaluation plan and metrics to assess the new PR process and PRF.

This Memorandum of Agreement replaces Article 59 (Professional Responsibility Clause) effective the date of ratification for the term of this Agreement and will expire upon ratification of the next collective agreement. Upon expiration of this Memorandum of Agreement, the parties will return to the process under Article 59, unless the parties expressly agree otherwise.

## **APPENDIX LL**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **BASELINE STAFFING INFORMATION**

The Employer will provide the union with copies of the baseline staffing levels, the regular FTEs and total casual hours for all units/departments/programs by March 31, 2013. This data shall also be provided on an annual basis thereafter.

If the Union has questions or concerns regarding the baseline staffing levels, the appropriate senior staff from the Employer will meet with the appropriate senior officers of the Union to discuss the issues.

## **APPENDIX MM**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **MAINTENANCE OF STRAIGHT TIME PAID HOURS OF NURSES**

HEABC will provide the NBA with the total number of straight-time paid hours, of the nurses in the health sector for the calendar year 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. This information will be provided to the NBA for each calendar year by July of the following year.

For the term of the Collective Agreement, the total number of straight-time paid hours of nurses in the health sector will be no less than the total number of straight-time paid hours of nurses in 2016.

HEABC will also provide the NBA with the number of FTEs broken down by full-time, part-time and casual, and the number of overtime hours, of nurses in the health sector for the calendar year 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

## **APPENDIX NN**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ADDITIONAL NURSE FTES**

The Employer was obligated to increase nursing hours from the December 31, 2012 hours by at least 4,159,687.5 straight time paid hours (2125 FTE) by March 31, 2016. These increases would have been distributed relatively evenly over this period, although the increases in the first year may be less. A strong majority of these FTEs would have been regular positions.

The parties have agreed the HEABC members will increase and extend the commitment to increase nursing hours by adding an additional 2,000,700 RN.RPN straight time hours paid (1026 FTE) to the target by December 31, 2019 for a total of 6,160,387.5 (3159 FTE). Compliance with this commitment will be achieved if the total straight time paid hours for the group in calendar 2019 are 6,160,387.5 greater (for total of 50,197,081.5) than the straight time paid hours for the group in calendar 2012 (which was 44,036,694). At least eighty per cent (80%) of the additional straight time paid hours will be hours paid in regular status.

In addition, HEABC members will add 440,154 LPN, NBA member straight time paid hours (226 FTE) to the system by December 31, 2019 over the same measure for the same group for calendar 2016. Compliance with this commitment will be achieved if the total number of straight time paid hours for the group for calendar 2019 is 440,154 greater than the same measure for calendar 2016. At least eighty percent (80%) of the additional straight time paid hours will be hours paid in regular status.

The new nurse FTEs will be in Surgical Service, In Hospital Medical, Residential, Long Term Care, Hospital Services, ICU Services, Home Care Nursing, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics, Hospitalization, Mental Health and Addiction, among other areas.

The measure of straight time paid hours referenced in this paragraph is as recorded in the HSCIS field called [REGULAR\_PAID\_HOURS] (currently field #D15 in HSCIS), and compliance will be reported in or around April 2020 when the 2019 data is available in HSCIS.

Table 1: Calculation to determine hours increase for RNs/RPNs

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	2012: Base Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual
RN/RPN Straight-time paid hours (includes hours worked in both regular and casual status)	44,036,694	50,197,081.5	<i>To be entered in 2020 when data for 2019 is available</i>

Table 2: Calculation to determine hours increase for LPNs

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	2016: Base Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual
RN/RPN Straight-time paid hours (includes hours worked in both regular and casual status)	10,471,778	10,911,932	<i>To be entered in 2020 when data for 2019 is available</i>

Calculation steps:

For the hours increase calculation: If (3)-(2) is a positive number then compliance is achieved.

For the commitment that 80% of the increase will be hours paid in regular status:

Table 3: Casual and Regular breakdown of hours

	Base Year Hours	2019 Hours	Difference	Percent of total difference
Hours in Regular Status	(A)	(D)	(G)	(J)
Hours in Casual Status	(B)	(E)	(H)	(K)
Total	(C)	(F)	(I)	(L)

Where:

(A) Is all the straight-time paid hours in the system in regular status in the base year (2012 for RNs/RPNS and 2016 for LPNs)

(B) Is all the straight-time paid hours in the system in casual status in the base year (2012 for RNs/RPNS and 2016 for LPNs)

(C) (A) + (B)

(D) Is all the straight-time paid hours in the system in regular status in the end year (2019)

(E) Is all the straight-time paid hours in the system in casual status in the end year (2019)

(F) (D) + (E)

(G) (D) - (A)

(H) (E) - (B)

(I) (F) - (C)

(J)  $(G)/(I)*100$

(K)  $(H)/(I)*100$

(L) 100%

If (J) is greater than 80% then compliance is achieved.

## **APPENDIX OO**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **ACUTE CARE/LONG TERM CARE STAFF REPLACEMENT – LONG TERM ABSENCES – VACATION RELIEF FTE**

Through the Protocol Settlement Agreement (“PSA”) dated April 1, 2015, the parties agreed on a minimum vacation relief FTE formula (the “Formula”). As per the PSA, the Employer was to complete all required analysis and approval processes to implement regular vacation relief positions at a unit or program level where there are ten (10) or more baseline FTEs in the same job and required competencies and to commence implementation January 2016.

The parties agree that the Formula will form part of this Collective Agreement.

Note: the Parties are currently working on the application of this MOA to community services.

## **APPENDIX PP**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY CARE MODEL IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **Background**

BC Health Authorities and Providence Health Care (PHC), the NBA and HEABC share a strong commitment to the successful integration of the Primary and Community Care health services across British Columbia. The Health Authorities and PHC are currently at various stages in the process of implementing changes to the Primary and Community care model, based on the needs of each community.

Primary and Community Care health services feature:

- Direct life-long care relationships between a Primary and Community Care team and patients, families and communities;
- Patients/families as partners and contributors to their own care decisions;
- Primary and Community Care teams that are interdisciplinary based on the health needs of the local community;

- To the extent possible, health care services close to home;
- A focus on prevention and wellness;
- Seamless care transitions throughout the patient journey;
- A shift of resources and staff toward the creation of inter-disciplinary primary care teams focused on longitudinal care relationships with patients, families and communities; and
- A relationship between the Primary and Community Care team and Specialised Community Service Programs (SCSPs) in the interests of providing person-centered, culturally safe care through an ongoing relationship between an individual and their primary care provider who is most responsible for the overall coordination and continuity of the individual's care throughout their life.

SCSPs provide specialized care for people with complex conditions including complex medical/frailty and moderate to severe mental health and substance use issues.

During the transition to primary care and while working in the new model, the NBA and its members have identified a number of concerns:

- a. Education, leadership and mentorship;
- b. Staffing levels, skill mix and working to full scope;
- c. Primary care nurse job descriptions;
- d. Impact of primary care initiatives on other areas, including, acute and long-term care;
- e. Issues around documentation and technology;
- f. Flexibility around shift length and rotations; and
- g. Additional recruitment and retention strategies.

To address these concerns and to recognize the parties' shared commitment to the implementation of the Primary and Community Care model, the parties agree to:

1. The NBA and the Employer agree to meet within 30 days post ratification to create a comprehensive change management

strategy that promotes safe nursing practice, increased job satisfaction and staff retention (Labour Adjustment Plan).

2. The NBA and the Employer further agree that while all nurses possess a general knowledge in the areas of Home Care, Public Health, and Mental Health; Specialised Community Service Programs will provide care for patients in the community with complex conditions including, but not limited to, complex medical/frailty, palliative care and moderate to severe mental health and substance use issues.
3. The parties agree that all nurses impacted by the transition in primary and community care services will participate in an individual learning needs assessment. Each assessment will consider a nurse's education and experience in relation to the respective job description and will identify any education gaps. Where a gap is identified, necessary education will be completed prior to the employee being required to complete the work. This includes nurses who are currently working in a primary care role and those who are yet to transition to primary care.
4. The parties agree to utilize money allocated for clinical mentorship for the creation of clinical resource nurses to be allocated equitably across the Health Authorities/PHC to support Primary and Community Care. The parties agree to evaluate the effectiveness of these positions and report back to the parties no later than ninety (90) days prior to the expiry of this Agreement.
5. Primary care nurse job descriptions will be reviewed in consultation with the Union and the Employer at the local level. Job descriptions will provide a clear overview of expected roles and responsibilities.
6. These efforts will be in addition to the existing mechanisms in this Agreement, such as consultation, staffing, scheduling, classification, workload, training and education, and various statutes and regulations to address matters that may arise.



**APPENDIX QQ**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**CLINICAL MENTORSHIP**

**Background**

The parties recognize that quality nursing practice is essential to the provision of safe patient care. Practical nursing skills are largely learned on the unit, whether through the consolidation of skills as new nurses, or through continuous learning as nurses progress through their careers.

The parties agree that nurses benefit from consistent, experienced mentorship and support at the unit level. Increasing clinical mentorship also aids with skill development, retention and recruitment and the promotion of safe patient care.

**Clinical Mentor Positions**

The parties agree to create clinical mentor positions in the units, departments, or programs jointly identified by the Strategic Nurse Staffing Committee (SNSC) as most benefiting from clinical mentorship, including but not limited to acute care, community care, mental health, and long-term care. If the SNSC cannot agree on where to place the clinical mentor positions, the Nurse Staffing Secretariat (NBA and HEABC reps) will support the SNSC on where to place the positions.

Clinical mentors will primarily be responsible for providing rapid, elbow-to-elbow clinical mentorship on the unit, department, or program. They will also work in conjunction with nurse educators to provide on-going education.

Clinical mentors will be included on the master rotation and be scheduled to work on day, night and weekend shifts. Clinical mentors will be paid at a Level 4 rate of pay and will not carry a caseload or provide relief.

Clinical mentors should have at least three (3) years of nursing experience, and have recent, relevant experience in the respective practice area in which they will provide mentorship.

The Employer will also regularly provide all relevant data at the SNSC level so that the parties can evaluate these positions.

Each Health Authority/Providence Health Care will create the following number of clinical mentor positions:

	FHA	IHA	NHA	PHC	PHSA	VCHA	VIHA	TOTAL
FTE	38	24	15	11	11	27	24	150

From the FTE allocation above, SNSCs at each regional Health Authority will develop and implement a plan to provide clinical mentor support for nurses at affiliate employers in their region. The plan to support nurses at affiliate employers will be reviewed by PNAHC.

The parties will allocate \$965,000 to jointly develop standardized clinical mentor orientation, education materials, and training. The training program will be approved by the Ministry of Health prior to implementation and will be provided by each Health Authority/PHC to all clinical mentors.

**APPENDIX RR**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**EMPLOYED STUDENT NURSE (ESN)**

WHEREAS the parties seek to:

- i. Retain graduates of local nursing programs following completion of their studies by providing job opportunities for paid experience;
- ii. Consolidate students' knowledge and skills so they are 'job ready' as new graduates;
- iii. Understand the feasibility, effectiveness and outcomes of such a process;
- iv. Facilitate the above points in a safe environment;

AND WHEREAS the *Health Professionals Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183 and the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) Bylaws and Policies have been revised to provide for the employment of undergraduate nurses in health care facilities;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree:

1. Priority for the program will be given to undergraduate nurses who are residents of British Columbia.

2. Undergraduate nurses will be hired and utilized in a manner consistent with the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) Rules and Registration Program Policies and Standards of Practice and this Memorandum of Agreement.
3. Under the direction of manager or designate, undergraduate nurses will provide direct nursing care to both stable and unstable patients/clients/residents, commensurate with their level of education and training.
4. Undergraduate nurses will be considered casual employees and governed by Article 11.04 – Casual Employees except as modified, or specified otherwise below:

### **Article 11.04 – Casual Employees**

#### **(A) Definition:**

An undergraduate nurse is a person engaged in the practice of nursing for the purpose of working as a nursing student in a health care facility during or between the terms of the Nursing Education Program, in accordance with the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) Rules and Registration Program Policies.

#### **(B) Off Duty Rights**

Does not apply.

#### **(C) Appointment & Utilization:**

- (1) The Employer will provide the undergraduate nurse with a letter of appointment immediately following recruitment, clearly stating their classification, wage level, worksite, and the unit, department or program where they will be assigned.
- (2) The Employer will provide the undergraduate nurse with a work schedule. The work schedule will be determined by the Employer, after consultation with the undergraduate nurse regarding their education program. The establishment and potential variance of the work schedule is not subject to Article 17 – Vacancy Postings, Article 25 – Work Schedules or Article 26 – Hours of Work, Meal Periods, Rest Periods.

- (3) Undergraduate nurses will be scheduled as supernumerary to the existing staffing complement for the unit, department, or program in order to facilitate a safe work experience.
- (4) The Employer will provide undergraduate nurses with orientation to the unit, department, or program to which they are assigned.
- (5) At the beginning of the annual commencement of the program, the designated NBA representative will receive a list of the undergraduate nurses, indicating undergraduate nurse's name, unit, department or program where assigned, and manager's name.

**(D) Casual Register**

Does not apply.

**(E) Procedure for Casual Call-In**

Does not apply.

**(F) Wage Entitlement**

The hourly rate of pay for undergraduate nurses shall be effective after the following dates:

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| i. April 1, 2022   | \$29.51 |
| ii. April 1, 2023  | \$31.50 |
| iii. April 1, 2024 | \$32.13 |

**(G) Benefit Entitlement**

**(1) Grievance and Arbitration**

Where a difference arises between the parties relating to the interpretation, application, operation, or alleged violation of this memorandum during its term, the parties shall meet within fourteen (14) days and attempt to resolve the difference. Failing resolution such difference shall be referred to the British Columbia Healthcare Office of Arbitration for expedited arbitration to be held within thirty (30) days as per Article 10.02 of this Agreement.

**(2) Vacation Pay and Paid Holidays**

Undergraduate nurses shall receive 8.0% of their straight time pay, exclusive of all premiums, if any, in lieu of scheduled vacations and paid holidays.

**(3) Other Benefits**

Undergraduate nurses shall be paid any earned shift premium, overtime (as per Article 11.04(l)) and premium pay for work on a paid holiday.

The provisions of Article 56.03 – Pay days and Article 56.04 – Statement of Wages are applicable to under-graduate nurses.

**(4) Health and Welfare Coverage**

No change.

**(5) Benefits for Casual Employees in Temporary Appointment**

Does not apply.

**(6) Seniority**

Seniority for undergraduate nurses is defined as the total number of hours worked by the employee at the worksite up to a maximum of the annual full-time equivalent (1950) hours per year.

Undergraduate nurses, while receiving workers' compensation benefits (wage loss replacement and rehabilitation benefits) will, upon return to work, be credited with seniority. This credit will be based on the number of hours worked as an undergraduate nurse during the twelve (12) month period preceding the date of illness or accident, calculated as follows:

1. Determine the number of hours worked in the twelve (12) month period.
2. Divide by 52 weeks.
3. Multiply by the number of weeks on approved workers' compensation benefits (wage loss replacement and rehabilitation benefits).

If an undergraduate nurse has been with the Employer for less than twelve (12) months preceding the date of illness or accident, then this shorter period will form the basis of the calculation.

Undergraduate nurses cannot use their seniority to bid into, or otherwise access, positions in the bargaining unit prior to graduation.

Notwithstanding the above, within twelve (12) months of graduation they may use their seniority to post on nurse positions in the bargaining unit with the same Employer.

**APPENDIX SS**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**NEW NURSE ASSISTANCE FUND**

Whereas, the parties have a common interest in ensuring individuals who are educated to be nurses are able to successfully practice in British Columbia; and

Whereas the parties are committed to working in a proactive way to assist nurses to establish themselves successfully in their work environments;

Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

Effective April 1, 2012, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per year will be paid to the NBA from the ongoing 2010 – 2012 Total Compensation Residual monies to be used to provide programs and support, at both the pre-and post-licensing stage, that can be shown to assist nurses in becoming qualified to practice in British Columbia.

The fund is intended to assist any nurse, including internationally educated nurses, who requires assistance in preparing for or completing their regulatory requirements and providing support for these nurses to be successful in the workplace.

The NBA will administer the New Nurse Assistance Fund and will provide an annual reporting of the expenditure of the funds to HEABC verifying that the sum was disbursed in the manner and for the purposes described above. This will include a summary statement of the transactions and balances for the year, as well as a copy of the NBA's audited financial statements.

**APPENDIX TT**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE FUND**

Effective April 1, 2012, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per fiscal year will be allocated to the Prevention and Assistance Fund from the ongoing 2010-2012 Total Compensation Residual monies.

The Prevention and Assistance Fund will be used to assist employees where the assistance can be shown to prevent the employee from being off work or result in the employee being able to return to work earlier.

The NBA will administer the Prevention and Assistance Fund and will provide an annual reporting of the expenditure of the funds to HEABC verifying that the sum was disbursed in the manner and for the purposes described above. This will include a summary statement of the transactions and balances for the year, as well as a copy of the NBA's audited financial statements.

The annual report will be provided within sixty (60) days following the fiscal year end.

The NBA may redirect all or a portion of the one million dollars (\$1,000,000) residual monies allocation by mutual agreement with HEABC and such agreement will not be unreasonably withheld.

**APPENDIX UU**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**TRAINING / EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP FUND**

Effective April 1, 2012, nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) per fiscal year will be allocated to the Training/Education Partnership Fund ("Fund") from the ongoing 2010-2012 Total Compensation Residual monies.

The parties agree that the Retraining/Education Fund Committee that was established in 2010 will be renamed the Training/Education Fund Committee ("Committee") and will continue to jointly administer the Fund and maintain mutually agreeable terms of reference, policies and criteria for eligibility, including an agreed upon process for approval.

Training/Education proposals may be initiated by the Health Authorities or by individual nurses.

The Fund will be used as follows:

- as a priority, to minimize job loss or disruption caused by displacements
- to support training, retraining, skills upgrading and determining educational needs of nurses who are transitioning into new roles or positions, and in particular, difficult to fill positions including those in specialty areas
- for any other training, retraining, or educational needs or opportunities as mutually agreed to by the parties

Proposals will be reviewed by the Committee, and approved proposals may be funded up to 50 percent from the Fund (subject to maximums and to the requirement for matching contributions from the Employer).

The Committee will endeavour to use the whole of the Fund within each fiscal year. By mutual agreement, any remaining funds may be re-directed and such mutual agreement will not be unreasonably withheld.

## **APPENDIX VV**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT**

##### **Definitions**

“General Wage Increase” or “GWI” means the overall general wage increase expressed as a percentage.

“Cost of Living Adjustment” or “COLA” means a percentage-based general wage increase adjustment provided in accordance with this Memorandum of Agreement. COLA is an upward adjustment applied to and folded into all wage rates.

The “annualized average of BC CPI over twelve months” (AABC CPI) means the *Latest 12-month Average Index % Change* reported by BC Stats in March for British Columbia for the twelve months starting at the beginning of March in the preceding year and concluding at the end of the following February.



The “Latest 12-month Average Index”, as defined by BC Stats, is a 12-month moving average of the BC consumer price indexes of the most recent 12 months. This figure is calculated by averaging index levels over the applicable 12 months.

The *Latest 12-month Average Index % Change* is reported publicly by BC Stats in the monthly BC Stats *Consumer Price Index Highlights* report. The BC Stats *Consumer Price Index Highlights* report released in mid-March will contain the applicable figure for the 12-months concluding at the end of February. The percentage change reported by BC Stats that will form the basis for determining any COLA increase is calculated to one decimal point. For reference purposes only, the annualized average of BC CPI over twelve months from March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 was 3.4%.

## **COLA**

The COLA will be applied as applicable to the GWI effective on the first pay period after April 1, 2023 and April 1, 2024. The COLA will be calculated by determining the difference between the AABC CPI and the annual general wage increase to the maximum COLA prescribed that year in Article 63 – Wage Schedule.

### **April 2023**

If the 2023 AABC CPI exceeds the April 2023 GWI of 5.5%, then, on the first pay period after April 1, 2023 the April 2023 GWI will be adjusted upwards to reflect a COLA equal to the difference between the April 2023 GWI and the 2023 AABC CPI up to a maximum of 1.25%.

### **April 2024**

If the 2024 AABC CPI exceeds the April 2024 GWI of 2.0%, then, on the first pay period after April 1, 2024 the April 2024 GWI will be adjusted upwards to reflect a COLA equal to the difference between the April 2024 GWI and the 2024 AABC CPI up to a maximum of 1.00%.

## **APPENDIX WW**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **2023 WAGE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS**

The parties will, on a one-time basis, apply adjustments to the increment steps in the wage schedules, effective April 1, 2023, as follows:

## Level 1 and Level 2 Nurse Wage Schedules

Increment Years 2 and 3: No change;

Increment Years 4 to Year 9: Adjust increment steps to result in increment step increases of \$0.95/hour; and

Increment Year 10: Add a new Year 10 increment step to result in an increase of \$0.95/hour from Year 9.

## Level 3 Nurse Wage Schedule

Increment Years 2 and 3: No change;

Increment Years 4 to 9: Adjust increment steps to result in increment step increases of \$1.57/hour; and

Increment Year 10: Add a new Year 10 increment step to result in an increase of \$1.57/hour from Year 9.

## Level 4, Level 5, and Level 6 Nurse Wage Schedules

Increment Years 2 and 3: Adjust increment steps to result in increment step increases of \$1.50/hour;

Increment Years 4 to 9: Adjust increment steps to result in increment step increases of \$1.55/hour; and

Increment Year 10: Add a new Year 10 increment step to result in an increase of \$1.55/hour from Year 9.

## Year 15-30 Add Pay

An additional hourly add pay of either \$0.50, \$1.25, \$2.25 or \$3.50 will apply in addition to a nurses' applicable Year 1 to 10 increment step wage rate (together, the "Year 15-30 Add Pay").

Eligibility for the applicable rate of Year 15-30 Add Pay will be based on Article 13 – Seniority as follows:

- For regular nurses, achieving at least a 15, 20, 25 or 30 year seniority date with their employer, respectively, calculated pursuant to Article 13.01(A); or
- For casual nurses, achieving at least 29,250, 39,000, 48,750 or 58,500 hours worked with their employer, respectively, calculated pursuant to Article 13.01(B).

- For clarity, seniority date or hours for the purposes of Year 15-30 Add Pay for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who become Registered Nurses (RNs) or Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) will be determined based on the combination of both their LPN and RN/RPN seniority dates or hours, as applicable, under the Nurses' Provincial Collective Agreement.

Notwithstanding above, new nurses hired after October 1, 2023, who do not have existing seniority and who are otherwise eligible for employer recognition of relevant nursing experience for the purposes of annual increments as described in Article 52 or Article 11.04(F)(2)(C), will upon the commencement of their employment be eligible to be credited for their relevant nursing experience in the same manner described in Article 52 or Article 11.04(F)(2)(C) for the sole additional purpose of establishing their initial Year 15-30 Add Pay eligibility date or hours, as applicable. Eligibility for Year 15-30 Year Add Pay will thereafter accrue based on the eligibility paragraphs above (e.g. seniority accruals). Year 15-30 Year Add Pay eligibility will be portable in the same manner as, and consistent with, seniority portability.

For clarity, the Year 15-30 Add Pay will be:

- applicable for all hours paid,
- pensionable,
- applicable for the calculation of overtime, and
- effective, April 1, 2024, increased based on future General Wage Increases.

All Collective Agreement language will continue to apply in the usual way to Year 1 to 10 Increment Steps, including among other things, promotional and laddering language.

- For example, a nurse with a seniority date of 26 years may be moved from Level 3, Step 10 to Level 4, Step 7 upon receiving a promotion to provide the minimum \$200 increase, but would still retain the Year 25 Add Pay on top of their Level 4, Step 7 wage rate.

For clarity, these adjustments will be applied after the application of the General Wage Increases (including COLA if applicable) for Years 1 and 2 of the agreement, but before the General Wage Increases (including COLA if applicable) are applied for Year 3 (April 2024) of the agreement.

These adjustments have been reflected in the wage schedules attached to Article 63 of this Collective Agreement.

## APPENDIX XX

### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### **DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND ELIMINATING INDIGENOUS SPECIFIC RACISM IN HEALTHCARE**

The parties acknowledge the pervasive and ongoing harms of colonialism faced by Indigenous peoples. These harms include widespread systemic racism against Indigenous peoples in BC's health system, as highlighted in the 2020 *In Plain Sight* report.

The parties agree to uphold the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which has been brought into the laws of British Columbia under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c 44.

The parties commit to working together to address the ongoing harms of colonialism and racism faced by Indigenous patients, clients, residents, service users, health care staff and providers, including by:

- committing to reconciliation in health care by supporting comprehensive, system-wide changes that enable Indigenous-specific anti-racism, and cultural safety;
- working together to actively identify, address and rectify barriers in Collective Agreements; and
- working to increase the representation of Indigenous individuals in the healthcare workforce.

Accordingly, building on the work underway, the parties support the creation of a provincial forum, led by the Indigenous Health branch of the Ministry of Health, that will include representatives from HEABC, health authority Vice Presidents of Indigenous Health and other leaders, representatives of other HEABC members, and health sector bargaining associations to engage in collaborative discussions that will inform the work moving forward and best position the parties in future rounds of collective bargaining (the "Forum"). Ministry of Health may also invite representatives from other relevant groups identified by the Ministry of Health, including Indigenous Elders or Knowledge Keepers, to participate in the Forum.

By October 15, 2023, Ministry of Health will establish the Forum and present the Terms of Reference that will set out the purpose:

- to create a Forum for health authority Indigenous leaders and other leaders, and representatives of other HEABC members and unions to have continuing dialogue on the commitments stated above. The parties may use the Forum to present their ongoing or developing organizational initiatives, including the implementation of the HSO 75000: 2022 BC Cultural Safety and Humility Standard, complaints processes, education, and training to eliminate Indigenous-specific racism and to hardwire cultural safety and humility into the workplace;
- to discuss ways to leverage resources being developed by NCCIH and Ministry of Health, as well as raising awareness of the wealth of resources within the health system now, including the repository of work housed with the NCCIH and resources already developed by health authorities;
- to discuss ways to address recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff, which may include developing recommendations for changes to Collective Agreement language in the next round of collective bargaining;
- to provide an opportunity for Ministry of Health to solicit feedback and report out on ongoing provincial initiatives, including continuing implementation of the *In Plain Sight* recommendations and the phased roll-out of the *Anti-Racism Data Act*, SBC 2022, c.18; and
- to improve awareness of and compliance with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c 44.

It is understood that the Forum should serve all interested parties in the provincial health care sector, not only the Nurses' Bargaining Association. To that end, the parties will make all reasonable efforts to promote participation in the Forum on a provincial and sector-wide basis.

The Ministry of Health shall hold the Forum quarterly or more frequently as deemed necessary.

**APPENDIX YY**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF**  
**INDIGENOUS EMPLOYEES**

1. The parties agree that Indigenous peoples are under-represented as employees in the health care system, and Indigenous peoples have historically experienced barriers to accessing health care services. The parties also recognize the important and significant qualities, contributions and perspectives that Indigenous nurses bring to patients/residents/clients/service users and the health-care system. Addressing the under-representation of Indigenous peoples in the health sector workforce is a critical strategy to ensure cultural safety within the health care system for both employees and patients/residents/clients/service users. To that end, the parties will actively support employment equity programs to promote the hiring of Indigenous employees into the health care system, and to increase Indigenous representation within the NBA bargaining unit.
2. To support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees, and to improve the care of Indigenous patients/residents/clients/service users across the health care system, the parties recognize that Employers may select an Indigenous candidate, even where they are not the most senior qualified candidate, when one or more of the following circumstances exist:
  - the Employer has identified a position that provides care or services to Indigenous communities or Indigenous patients/residents/clients/service users and requires the cultural expertise or knowledge of Indigenous peoples, communities and/or nations;
  - where commitments to hire Indigenous peoples with external funding for programs have to be met; and/or
  - where the Employer has identified it is desirable to hire Indigenous peoples into leadership or mentorship roles.

Where there is more than one qualified Indigenous candidate, Employers will give consideration to, among other things, the

communit(ies) involved, patient/resident/client/service user population, the candidates' Indigenous knowledge and experience and circumstances surrounding the role when determining the successful candidate.

Within the first thirty (30) days in the position, the successful candidate may elect to leave the position and return to their previously held position with that employer (if applicable). In such circumstances, they will give twenty-eight (28) days' notice to the employer.

Employers will not be required to repost and may select another candidate.

3. The parties agree that there may be new or existing positions that require lived experience or knowledge of Indigenous peoples, communities and/or nations. In such cases, the Employer has the management right to require such qualifications on the job description.
4. Further to the circumstances identified in paragraphs 2 and 3, in the absence of fully qualified applicants for a posted position, the Employer may choose to hire an Indigenous candidate who does not possess all required qualifications for the position but would become job ready through Employer-provided training, orientation or mentoring.
5. The parties will share information with the Forum described in Appendix XX MOA re: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Eliminating Indigenous Specific Racism in Health-care regarding the use of this MOA.

## **APPENDIX ZZ**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP**

1. The parties agree that addressing and improving diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace is a priority for the health sector, not only for healthcare staff, but also to better serve patients, clients and residents.
2. The parties have a joint interest in creating safe, inclusive work environments by developing approaches to foster positive spaces, identifying and making efforts to remove barriers to individuals of

under-represented groups, and making recommendations to employers and employees to further diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace.

3. Accordingly, within 120 days of ratification the parties will establish a coordinated and integrated provincial and sector-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group (the “Working Group”).
4. The Working Group will be established by Provincial Health Human Resources Coordination Centre (PHHRCC) and will include representatives from health authorities, other HEABC member representatives, and health sector bargaining associations.
5. The Working Group may invite subject matter experts and other relevant government ministries to attend as guests and to participate in conversations as needed.
6. The Working Group will meet quarterly (or as otherwise agreed) and will complete their work prior to March 31, 2025.
7. The Working Group’s focus will be the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in health care workplaces and the Working Group will:
  - Develop terms of reference;
  - Engage and consult stakeholders as required;
  - Gather all necessary data in accordance with applicable privacy legislation in advance of the Working Group’s meetings to inform discussions and actions of the Working Group;
  - Conduct a review and analysis of available relevant data to benchmark the current state of the health care workforce with the intention to identify current gaps in under-represented workers;
  - Support the creation of a safe and discrimination-free workplace;
  - Identify solutions to address barriers to employment and career advancement;
  - Review available data in accordance with applicable privacy legislation;



- Review existing health authority/Providence Health Care (PHC) DEI programs and actions to identify gaps; and
  - Recommend a framework and action plan to improve diversity, equity and inclusion in healthcare workplaces, in concert with existing health authority/PHC work. Recommendations may include:
    - i. suggestions to the Ministry of Health for the supports and resources necessary to advance DEI initiatives and foster inclusive environments; and
    - ii. suggestions to the Ministry of Health or health authorities/PHC on employee DEI training, which may include anti-racism training, gender and sexual diversity training, anti-harassment training, and disability awareness training.
8. The Working Group will make recommendations to PHHRCC.
  9. The parties will work co-operatively to implement and promote the framework and action plan if the recommendations are adopted by the Ministry of Health and the health authorities/PHC.

## **APPENDIX AAA**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **GENDER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

##### **General Inclusion & Gender-Affirming Support**

The parties agree to the following:

1. The parties agree that Two-Spirit, gender-diverse and transgender people have experienced and continue to experience barriers to respect, representation and safety in the workforce. Addressing these concerns in the health sector workforce is a critical strategy to ensure equity and inclusion within the health care system for both employees and patients/residents/clients/service users. To that end, the parties will actively engage in creating culturally safe and anti-racist workplaces that are inclusive of gender diversity, which may include policies and practices with a gender inclusive lens, gender-affirming leave(s), and workspaces for gender-di-

verse individuals and ongoing educational resources and supports.

2. The parties will work together to protect the job security, privacy, and safety of Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender diverse employees at all times in accordance with the Collective Agreement and legislation.
3. Upon an employee's request, the Employer will work with the employee (and the Union, if requested) to prepare a gender-affirming support plan that is respectful, employee-centered, and tailored to the employee's particular needs, including how and if any name or pronoun changes will be communicated.
4. Employees may request that the Employer correct their personal information, such as legal name and gender changes, on employee records, directories, and workplace documents. This may include seniority lists, nametags, employee IDs, email addresses, organizational charts, health care coverage and schedules and human resources documents. Employers will correct personal information pursuant to applicable privacy law.
5. Gender identity and expression are protected grounds pursuant to the B.C. Human Rights Code. Gender-based discrimination can happen at the workplace or online and includes but is not limited to intentional:
  - Deadnaming (using employee's former name);
  - Misgendering (referring to someone using a word or pronoun that does not reflect their gender); and/or
  - Doxxing (intentional sharing personal information, including old photos or medical information for the purpose of harassment or online mobbing).
6. Employers will review current policies and procedures to ensure they are gender inclusive.
7. Employers will make gender inclusive resources available to employees and managers.

This MOA is not intended to limit the work of the DEI Working Group in advancing gender inclusion in the workplace.

## **Gender-Affirming Medical Leave**

Effective April 1, 2023, the Employer will grant an employee a cumulative total of up to eight (8) weeks of leave with pay for medical procedures and revisions. Additional paid or unpaid leave may be provided through collective agreement leave provisions.

## **Bathrooms/Change Rooms**

An employee worker may use the bathroom/changeroom of their lived gender regardless of whether or not they have sought or completed surgeries or completed a legal name or gender change. Employers will:

- A) Ensure single occupant bathrooms/changerooms (where they exist) on their worksite premises are accessible by employees of any gender identity or expression by ensuring there is signage welcoming all genders and confirm this to the NBA within six (6) months of ratification and
- B) Post signage in all bathroom/changeroom facilities about diverse genders being welcome in these spaces.

## **APPENDIX BBB**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL EMERGENCIES**

Where a local or provincial emergency is declared that impacts bargaining unit employees, the Employer will notify the Union as soon as reasonably possible.

The Employer will provide relevant information to the Union.

The Employer and the Union will meet as soon as reasonably possible to discuss the details and impacts related to the emergency.

## **APPENDIX CCC**

### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

#### **PANDEMIC INFORMATION SHARING FORUM**

The parties acknowledge the hard work of employees, Employers and Unions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the parties recognized the value of collaboration and cooperation, and convened a provincial occupational health and safety forum to share information and address provincial-level issues as they arose. The parties found this forum was effective in supporting the pandemic response and addressing health and safety concerns.

The parties acknowledge the importance of learnings from previous public health emergencies, such as those outlined in the 2003 Ontario SARS Commission final report.

The parties acknowledge the importance of providing timely information to employees and Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSC).

Accordingly, the parties agree to establish a pandemic information sharing forum (the “forum”) where a public health emergency is declared by the Government of British Columbia that creates a health risk for a significant number of employees.

The forum will consist of one (1) representative from each participating Bargaining Association, HEABC, Employer representatives, and a senior representative from the Ministry of Health. The forum may also include a representative from Doctors of BC, WorkSafeBC or other relevant groups as agreed to by the participants.

The purpose of the forum is to promote information sharing related to pandemic occupational health and safety matters, with the following principles:

- Open, transparent and respectful communications
- Focus on provincial level issues
- Interest based approach

The forum will determine the meeting frequency.

The forum will be provided with relevant information related to health care worker safety.

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