

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Contract with Healthcare Workers Ratified

The Council of Health Care Unions ratified a two-year agreement with Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health on September 12. The contract runs from November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2025. The bargaining unit has 9,100 healthcare workers in more than 180 job classifications, including physiotherapists, lab staff, psychologists, continuing care assistants, social workers and pharmacists.

The contract includes: economic increases of 3 per cent on November 1, 2023, and 2 per cent on November 1, 2024; paramedic hourly wages at NSH will be aligned with paramedics employed by Emergency Health Services; a special adjustment of 2.5 per cent to all classifications except paramedics and continuing care assistants (they received targeted increases before or during this agreement); two additional steps added to pay scales valued at 2.5 per cent on October 31, 2024, and 2.5 per cent on October 31, 2025, to support retention and recruitment; two targeted wage adjustments of up to 2.5 per cent wage adjustments on November 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025, in an effort to move certain classifications up to but not surpassing the leading wage rate in Atlantic Canada, which will support retention and recruitment; increases to shift and weekend premiums to support evening and weekend access to care and streamlined recruitment language to bring qualified employees into the organization faster.

Renewed Agreement Strengthens French-Language Services

Nova Scotia has signed a new five-year funding agreement with the Government of Canada to continue advancing French-language services across the province. The Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on Minority-language Services commits both governments to investing \$11.8 million each between 2023 and 2028 to support the development and vitality of the Acadian and francophone community.

Nova Scotia is receiving 81 per cent more in federal funding compared to the previous agreement.

Province to Adopt 2020 National Building Codes

Nova Scotia is preparing to adopt the 2020 National Building Codes starting April 1, 2025. The new national codes provide guidance on enhancing the accessibility and energy efficiency of buildings.

Amendments to regulations under Nova Scotia's Building Code Act are needed to adopt the national codes as the new minimum standards for construction in the province. The changes will align the provincial building code with the latest National Building Code standards and improve safety for Nova Scotians. These codes include: 2020 National Building Code; 2020 National Plumbing Code and 2020 National Energy Code for Buildings.

The new national codes use a tiered system that will provide a road map to increasing energy efficiency standards and help to move the industry towards net-zero construction. Implementation will be phased in over four years: Tier 1 - national building code and energy code, effective April 1, 2025; Tier 2 - national building code, effective April 1, 2026; Tier 2 - national energy code, effective April 1, 2027; Tier 3 - national building code, effective April 1, 2027 and Tier 3 - national energy code, effective April 1, 2029.

All remaining 2020 national codes, including the national plumbing codes, will be adopted effective April 1, 2025. By adopting the national codes, building design and construction in Nova Scotia will be consistent with standards across Canada. The new regulations are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-1.htm#bcode>

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Marquis Named Captain, Furmidge, Welsh and Fauchon Assistants

We are pleased to announce 20 year old forward Zach Marquis as the 29th captain in Bearcat history dating back to our revival in 1997. Serving as assistants will be 20 year old forward Andyn Furmidge, 19 year old forward Liam Welsh and 20 year old defenceman Philippe Fauchon.

Marquis from Lévis, Quebec is a first year Bearcat who has spent the past 3 seasons in the QMJHL appearing in 140 games. In the 2022-23 season with the Quebec Remparts, Zach would win the QMJHL championship as well as the Memorial Cup under the coaching of NHL legend Patrick Roy. Head Coach Jon Greenwood had this to say on Marquis.



The leadership group was named at a team dinner. I to R: Philippe Fauchon, Zach Marquis, Andyn Furmidge and Liam Welsh.

"Zach has shown tremendous leadership ever since he's arrived in Truro. We love his passion for the game and his playing experience is hugely beneficial for our group."

Furmidge from Middle Stewiacke, Nova Scotia is currently the longest serving Bearcat, going into his 4th season in the league. Andyn has played 140 regular season and

playoffs games in a Truro jersey. Greenwood on Furmidge: "We're very proud to have a local player who's a veteran of the team as part of our leadership group. Andyn plays the game the right way; honest and hard."

Welsh from Halifax, Nova Scotia is going into his "second season" as a Bearcat after being called back up to the Q halfway through last year. Welsh has over 100 games combined between the Bearcats and Halifax Mooseheads over 2 seasons. Greenwood on Welsh: "Liam possesses 'hard skill' which is what we like in all our players. He'll be a bigtime contributor in all situations for our team."

Fauchon from Lévis, Quebec has the most junior hockey experience of anyone on the Truro roster this season playing 3 seasons in the QMJHL, totalling 171 combined games. Greenwood on Fauchon: "He carries himself like a pro on and off the ice. We love what Phil has brought to our group as a player and person."

It's Important To Have All Hands On Deck

When that's not possible, the load gets increasingly more difficult to carry.

The Truro Junior Bearcats were in that very position to kick off the 2024-2025 campaign. When the dust settled they were in the short end of two verdicts.

Friday, September 13, in Bouctouche, they were basically a line short. To their credit they played a strong game, battling to the end.

Truro opened the scoring in the first period and held off the Steamers until a power play goal late in the third. With three seconds remaining on the clock, the Steamers score and win.

That was a tough loss but nothing can take away from the effort shown from all seventeen players dressed. Injury is part of all sports.

Saturday, October 14, the Bearcats hosted the Summerside Capitals, who were playing the first game of their

schedule. You just knew that would be a huge challenge. A couple of early turnovers in the defensive zone proved costly. The Capitals made the Bearcats pay.

Truro played a stronger second period and controlled a good portion of the play, setting the stage for the third period down two goals.

The leg weary Bearcats just ran out of gas. The Capital game was just too heavy and too fast by this time.

So, the Bearcats entered the following week with two goalies, six defencemen and twelve forwards, with help on its way.

In that mix is one returning rearguard, four returning forwards. Getting the five rook-

ies and acquisitions on the same page is the challenge. It's a work in progress.

Like the Bearcats, the Crushers suffered a pair of losses in the opening week. This is an old rivalry and that's basically all you need to know. Players on both sides will quickly learn the tradition that exists.

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