

February 3, 2009

Ms. Debbie Forward
President
Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses Union
P.O. Box 416
St. John's, NL A1C 5J9

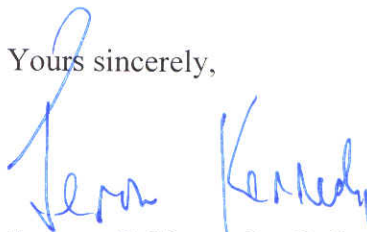
Dear Ms. Forward:

I write in response to your letter dated January 30, 2009 in which you outline the position of the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses' Union (NLNU).

Government always welcomes the opportunity to recommence negotiations with a view to successfully concluding the renewal of a collective agreement. It should be noted that we cannot accept preconditions for the commencement of talks; however, it is in everyone's collective interest to resume negotiations.

Your comments in the public, along with feedback I have received directly from nurses, reflect the importance of addressing the issues of recruitment and retention and working conditions for nurses. I invite you back to the negotiating table to discuss these and other important issues.

Please advise as to your availability and negotiations can commence immediately. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,


Jerome P. Kennedy, Q.C.
Minister of Finance &
President of Treasury Board
Minister Responsible for the
Public Service Secretariat