

Law Amendments Committee
Bill 7 – Workers’ Compensation Act (amended) – re PTSD

Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses’ Union
October 16th, 2017

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In some Canadian jurisdictions, presumptive PTSD legislation is reserved for traditionally male-dominated professions. Nurse unions across the country have been lobbying governments and compensation boards to recognize the reality of PTSD in nursing and the obligation to provide appropriate care and compensation to those affected. The NSNU is happy to see that in Nova Scotia, the legislation specifically names nurses and continuing care assistants,

professions which are typically female-dominated. We encourage both legislators here and the Governor in Council to seriously consider other professions that regularly deal with trauma, including social workers.

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I thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation. We encourage its passing, and hope you will heed the recommendations we have made today.

Law Amendments Committee
Bill 7 – Workers’ Compensation Act (amended) – re PTSD

Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses’ Union
October 16th, 2017

The Nova Scotia Nurses’ Union is a professional union representing 7,000 Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners in Nova Scotia’s hospitals, long term care facilities, adult residential centers, VON branches and Canadian Blood Services Centres. On behalf of the NSNU, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak to this important legislation which the Nurses’ Union supports.

Nursing is an amazing profession, but unfortunately it sometimes involves traumatic experiences. Nurses see patients experiencing extreme pain and suffering. They care for children who are abused, both physically and sexually. Like other first responders, they see humanity at its worst, and patients at their most vulnerable. Unfortunately, the thoughts and experiences at work are not easily compartmentalized; they stay with the nurse and affect every aspect of her life.

In some Canadian jurisdictions, presumptive PTSD legislation is reserved for traditionally male-dominated professions. Nurse unions across the country have been lobbying governments and compensation boards to recognize the reality of PTSD in nursing and the obligation to provide appropriate care and compensation to those affected. The NSNU is happy to see that in Nova Scotia, the legislation specifically names nurses and continuing care assistants,

professions which are typically female-dominated. We encourage both legislators here and the Governor in Council to seriously consider other professions that regularly deal with trauma, including social workers.

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