



Nova Scotia Health + Community Services Safety Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frontline Safety Training Cancelled in Health and Community Services

Halifax, NS – March 2nd, 2026

The newly released 2026-27 NS Budget revealed the withdrawal of AWARE-NS funding, resulting in the cancellation of safety and injury prevention programming for frontline health and community service workers across Nova Scotia. In 2024–25 alone, AWARE-NS delivered safety programming to over 20,000 participants related to Health and Community Care services in the province.

In the last decade, injury rates in Health and Social Services have declined by 30%. In Home Care and Long-Term Care, the injury rate is the lowest it has ever been. These improvements are a result of AWARE-NS programming in partnership with other safety and injury prevention efforts.

This funding reduction comes as Disability Support providers implement the Human Rights Remedy and expand services province-wide; Long-Term Care capacity grows; new workplace safety legislation increases compliance demands; and WCB injury rates reach historic lows. This loss of AWARE-NS funded safety programming shifts the cost directly to care providers, many of whom are already facing declining operational budgets.

“Safety programming helps protect the people who care for Nova Scotians every day,” said Lorna O’Grady, Chair of the AWARE-NS Board of Directors. “Removing that support at a time when services are growing increases risk for frontline workers and weakens the care they provide to some of our most vulnerable community members.”

Without coordinated safety training, frontline health and community services are more susceptible to workplace injuries, staffing shortages, and service disruptions.