

The Chronicle Herald

METRO, NOVA SCOTIA

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1824

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Union slams NSHA after assault

STUART PEDDLE
THE CHRONICLE HERALD
speddle@herald.ca
@Guylafur

A pregnant nurse is in hospital waiting to have her baby after a violent assault at the East Coast Forensic Hospital that the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union says could have been prevented if safety concerns had not

been dismissed.

"She was viciously attacked by a patient whose intent was to harm her and to harm her baby," NSGEU president Jason MacLean said on Thursday. "She ended up getting rushed to hospital and what happened to her was her water broke. She's 33 weeks pregnant and they're hoping to get her to 36 and then induce her. Right now the baby is stable and she's in a tremendous amount of pain."

The assault happened Monday and MacLean said the nurse's personal safety alarm did not go off despite six attempts to activate it.

"It is taped up and decrepit. It needs to be replaced and the employer has refused to replace it. What they have been doing is doing a makeshift Band-Aid fix on it."

The devices are essentially like panic buttons, he said. There's a

string on one side that a user can pull to activate the alarm and a button on the top that will also sound the alarm. Both options were taped.

"Myself, I come from a corrections background," said MacLean, a former prison guard. "We would have panic buttons on our radios and as soon as we hit a panic button, everybody would come

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DOUBLE TRAGEDIES

Halifax cartoonists capture public mood

KEITH DOUCETTE
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax cartoonist Michael de Adder says he was simply trying to find a small bit of positivity with an image that has garnered national attention for its depiction of recent tragedies in Toronto and Humboldt, Sask.

The cartoon, published in the aftermath of Monday's van attack in Toronto that killed 10 people and injured 14, shows two boys in hockey sweaters sitting on a bench, sticks by their sides.

The boys, one wearing a green and yellow Humboldt Broncos jersey and the other wearing a blue and white Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, have their arms around one another, supportive in crisis.

"The reality is, I'm just happy to perhaps in a small way add a little bit of positivity in a very negative situation, so that's all I'm trying to accomplish with that cartoon," de Adder said in an interview.

De Adder, an award-winning national freelancer, is one of two Halifax cartoonists regularly garnering attention for works that appear to capture the national mood.

Bruce MacKinnon, the Halifax Chronicle Herald cartoonist for

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Brain research



Dr. Sultan Darvesh, director of the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank, is a pioneer of the world's first technology for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in a living person's brain. See story on Page A7. RYAN TAPLIN ■ THE CHRONICLE HERALD

POLITICS

Women still face barriers, 100 years on

ANDREA GUNN
OTTAWA BUREAU
agunn@herald.ca
@notandrea

It's been 100 years since some women in Nova Scotia were granted the right to have a say in the leaders and policies that shaped their lives, but even today many barriers still exist for women who want to become leaders.

On April 26, 1918, female property owners were granted the vote in Nova Scotia and two years later that property restriction was re-

moved.

It wasn't until 1960, however, that Mi'kmaq women could cast ballots without losing their treaty status.

But even with a century of suffrage behind us, women are still under-represented in political life.

South Shore-St. Margaret's MP Bernadette Jordan is the only female member of Parliament for Nova Scotia, and only the ninth in the province's history.

"Someone asked me once what would you like to see 100 years

from now in terms of women. My response was that we wouldn't still be having these conversations, that it's just the norm. That we don't have to talk about only electing nine women in the province, that we're not still talking about firsts: first woman for this, first woman for that, that those are all gone," she said.

Pamela Lovelace, chair of the Nova Scotia chapter of Equal Voice, an organization aimed at empowering more women to get involved in politics, said she's proud of all the achievements of

women during the last century but there's still lots of work to be done in Nova Scotia and beyond.

"I think it's important for us to look to the next 100 years where women not only need to vote but they need to fully engage in politics," she said.

Lovelace said people like Nova Scotia's Alexa McDonough, who became the first woman to lead a major political party when she was elected leader of the provincial NDP in 1980, are trailblazers,

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