



## **Janet Hazelton**

### **President**

### **Nova Scotia Nurses' Union Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

Janet Hazelton has been the president of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union (NSNU) since October 2002. She graduated in 1984 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing from St. Francis Xavier University in her hometown of Antigonish. She was employed at Colchester East Hants Health Centre for most of her nursing career. Early on, she recognized that she and her co-workers needed a strong voice where matters of compensation, employee safety, and other work-life issues were concerned. Thus, in 1987, her career as a union activist and advocate for health care and nursing issues was launched. Janet's volunteer involvement in the NSNU enabled her to pursue additional education in labour relations and ultimately led her to the positions of second vice-president, followed by secretary-treasurer on the Board of Directors of the NSNU, then president. In addition to advocating and negotiating on behalf of the NSNU members, this full-time position comes with the added responsibility of sitting on numerous committees including the Provincial Nursing Network and the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour. She sits on the Board of Directors for the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia as well as the National Executive Board of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions. She is also the NSNU trustee for the Nova Scotia Health Employees' Pension Plan. From 2006 to 2007, as president of the Nurses' Union, Janet collaborated with other unions in the province to advocate for workplace violence safety measures. The campaign, "Workplace Violence: It's Not Part of the Job," was successful in securing formal regulations under Section 82 of the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act. Unfortunately, this is a cause Janet must still fiercely defend. Janet champions other causes on behalf of the NSNU including a national pharmacare program for all Canadians. She works tirelessly to help protect the quality of health care for patients, the rights of nurses, and our universal public health care system. In 2010, Janet completed her master's degree in public administration from Dalhousie University. In addition to her many professional commitments, Janet, a Truro resident and mother of two grown children, is still active in her community.