

## **Resolution 10A**

### **HOSPITAL PARKING FEES (DEFEATED)**

⇒ District of Barrington

**WHEREAS** the South West Nova District Health Authority has increased its parking fees at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, the Digby General Hospital, and Roseway Hospital in Shelburne, from \$3.00 to \$4.00, effective September 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS** all District Health Authorities in the Province of Nova Scotia use hospital parking fees as a source of income; and

**WHEREAS** patients and their families are at their most vulnerable mental and physical states when visiting hospitals to obtain medical care; and

**WHEREAS** parking fees are a barrier to healthcare and add avoidable stress to patients who already have more than enough to cope with; and

**WHEREAS** increasing parking fees is not "patient-centred health care"; and

**WHEREAS** a disparity of cost exists for patients and visitors from rural areas of Nova Scotia because they have no choice but to use their vehicles to commute to a hospital;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request the Province of Nova Scotia reduce hospital parking fees in all Districts to the level necessary to recover the costs of providing this service only.

#### ***BACKGROUND:***

Hospital parking fees are used in all Districts as a source of income for maintenance of parking areas with surpluses over and above costs used to defray other costs.

Hospital parking fees vary from District to District throughout the province. These fees are more of a burden to rural patients and their families who cannot get to a hospital by means other than their vehicle.