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### Opposition Pleased with Nurses Deal May 21, 2009

The opposition parties are pleased the nurses dispute has been resolved. Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones feels the deal will go a long way in addressing the serious nursing shortage facing the province.

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael says she believes Premier Williams did the right thing in conceding on the market adjustment issue. Michael remains concerned about the outmigration of students in the province's nursing program. She fears the immediate issues in the systems, like the high levels of overtime, will continue to discourage students from remaining in Newfoundland and Labrador.

There is still no word on when nurses will vote on the new agreement.

Premier Danny Williams says the strike action avoided Wednesday was a means of safeguarding the interests of the province

Nurses president Debbie Forward says the union accepted government's extended earnings loss language, but struck a balance on the market adjustment.

More accolades for the Nurses Union and government on its tentative agreement. The Association of Registered Nurses is pleased both sides came together to avert a strike. Executive Director Pegi Earle says the last few weeks have been strenuous for everyone involved but the end result is positive for nurses and health care in the province. Earle says the tentative deal will have a positive impact on RN and Nurse Practitioner recruitment and retention efforts and will help solve the nursing shortage.

