

This week in bargaining was painfully slow!

What we discussed:

- This week, our discussions centered on articles 30 and up. After about 30 actual days of negotiations with SAHO, they are not motivated to make progress on significant issues.
- We are still facing some very regressive concessions as proposed by SAHO, and they oppose such things as 'professional fees' for fear that CUPE members will use that benefit to pay for membership in the "Cattleman's Association". They also will not agree to pay for proof-of-illness certificates. This is ludicrous!
- The lack of knowledge about our job descriptions, specifically on the issue of mentoring is astounding!
- Further to this, the Employers have repeatedly come to the table with an expressed need for "more time to review", and "more internal discussion." Then they simply dismissed our rationale for language we deem important. They have offered no counter proposals for us to review at all.

Money:

- The bargaining committee requested a monetary package AGAIN and received written response that denied our request.
- Our language ensures everyone can access bereavement leave but the employer views this as a new cost. In essence, they want us to pay again for existing benefits gained in prior rounds of bargaining.
- Until we have access to the monetary package, we are not seeing the whole picture, making effective bargaining difficult.

We remain intent on seeing much of their regressive language moved off the table before going to the coalition table (where the monetary package will be negotiated in concert with SEIU and SGEU).

The next scheduled dates for bargaining are May 19 to 22nd.

**In Solidarity,
Your CUPE Health Care Bargaining Committee**