

Bargaining Update #2

October 4, 2008



A Bitter Pill

"NO!" "Definitely Not!" and "Not Interested!" was the general tone of the employer's forty five minute response on Tuesday to the Union's proposal package.

Our proposal to expand the maximum number of hours CUPE members could bank as time in lieu was met with a resounding "we are not a bank". The Union agrees with that statement, for a bank would offer at least a bit of interest.

The bargaining committee restated the importance of your proposals, only to be met with the response that we had a "nice view of the world". We agree that visions of a world in which employers offer fair wages and decent working conditions is a nice view, a farsighted and an entirely realistic view.

By contrast, the employer's vision as expressed by their proposal package is not so nice.

Though the employer was steadfast in their rejection of most of our collective agreement improvements, we reminded the employer that our proposals were created by workers. CUPE asserted, "Employees know what makes the workplace work!"

However, the employer's headaches, general lack of interest, poor vision and negative disposition may be symptoms of a looming and serious concern in the Saskatchewan health care sector and political scene. This reality at the bargaining table is like a bitter pill caught in the throats of health care workers.

Given the tone and nature of the employer's opening position and responses this week, it could be a long and difficult round of bargaining.

But, you can be assured that your CUPE bargaining committee is working together in complete unison to achieve a fair agreement. Look for the next bargaining update on October 31st following that week of scheduled bargaining.

In Solidarity,

Your CUPE Health Care Bargaining Committee

