

CUPE Health Care Council Bargaining Update #12 – June 17, 2009

Congratulations to YOU, the membership, for sending this government and SAHO a powerful message!

Your overwhelming rejection of the employer's concession demands seems to have motivated them. As a result, SAHO's media release publically indicated their desire to achieve a collective agreement.

The following is our response to you regarding their public spin on the state of negotiations:

- The CUPE Health Care Council is challenging the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organization's public statement, released June 15th, that they are committed to concluding a collective agreement with 12,600 union members.
- Their statement is full of spin but lacks any substance.
- They say they have provided a general structure of financial resources available, yet they have not tabled any monetary amounts.
- They say they have withdrawn or amended a large percentage of their proposals, yet they have refused to table their entire package.
- If SAHO put as much effort in at the negotiating table as they did in their public spin, the union may be able to claim real progress.
- The employers still have massive concession proposals on the table and, despite repeated requests from the union, have still refused to remove these concessions or table a monetary package.
- They still want us to make major decisions on non-monetary issues without seeing the entire picture.
- Clearly the government is concerned about our historic 88% strike vote mandate.
- The union is also inviting SAHO's CEO, Susan Antosh, to participate in negotiations. She is their spokesperson but has never been at our bargaining table. If she wants to make public statements about the status of bargaining, she should at least be there to get the whole picture.
- CUPE also dismissed SAHO's statement in regard to Health Minister McMorris's challenge to conclude negotiations. The truth is, we have been trying to meet with the Minister since he was elected. We have been rebuffed by him at every turn. If he wants to talk to us he can pick up the phone.

CUPE has made significant amendments to our proposal package, but we have yet to witness **any** movement by SAHO.

We have scheduled bargaining dates through the summer and into the fall and expect to see some movement from the employer at our next session starting July 20th. Additional dates are scheduled in August through October if required.

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

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