

CUPE Health Care Council Bargaining Update #7 – February 27, 2009

ESSENTIAL SERVICES “CIRCUS”

- SAHO attempted to derail bargaining with a news conference on the details of the 5 Regions’ Essential Services plans Wednesday Feb 26 at 10:30 a.m.
- SAHO and the Regions deliberately withheld the plans from the locals until 10:15 a.m. that morning and delivered details to the media before releasing them to the union
- Local presidents were at the bargaining table with the employer, yet the essential services plans were released to union offices instead of being provided directly to union leadership at the table
- No communication with CUPE about the essential service plans occurred prior to the release, during the whole week of bargaining or afterward
- Your Bargaining Committee will review the essential service lists March 3rd and 4th before providing a detailed response
- The Bargaining Committee maintains the strategy and tactics used by SAHO are not conducive to bargaining a fair collective agreement as they continue to bargain in the public

THIS WEEK IN BARGAINING:

- *Docking pay for refusing immunization*- The employer wants to place all members who refuse immunization on unpaid leaves of absence .
- *“Cooperation” with the Employer*- The Employer proposed that employees tattle on co-workers for misconduct.
- *Right to Refuse*- According to the employer, the right to refuse unusually dangerous work does not apply to CUPE employees.
- *Disclosure of Volunteer Work*- The employer refused to disclose information on the numbers of volunteers in the workplace.
- *Workload*- The employer wants the unilateral right to relocate employees to anywhere in the region.
- *Monetary Package*- CUPE asked the employer representatives once again to show us the money. We were refused. The employer stated with arrogance that “We’ll decide when you get the monetary package-not you!”

The next week of bargaining is scheduled for March 23 to 27 in Saskatoon

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

CUPE COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

February 27, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUPE critical of release of essential services plans

The Canadian Union of Public Employees blasted the Saskatchewan Party Government and SAHO for releasing the draft essential services plans for the Health Regions to the media before providing these plans to the CUPE Health Care leadership.

"The timing of SAHO's news conference was clearly orchestrated to prevent the Union from providing any informed response," said Gordon Campbell, President of the CUPE Health Care Council.

Campbell explained that the union leadership was sitting across from SAHO and Health Region representatives in Regina, bargaining a new collective agreement, yet the essential services plans were sent to CUPE's offices in Regina, Prince Albert, Weyburn, Yorkton, and North Battleford.

"We were a table away, and they chose to send these important documents to all areas of the Province." Campbell said.

"Rather than participate in meaningful discussion with Union representatives, the Government and SAHO's priority is to spin their regressive essential services legislation for the public. On the other hand, CUPE's priority is to achieve a fair and equitable collective agreement for our Health Care membership," Campbell stated.

CUPE will be reviewing the draft essential services plans in depth over the next few days.

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