

CUPE Health Care Council



We know 25,000 reasons our health care system works:

There are 25,000 health care providers who play an important role in health care delivery in Saskatchewan. The CUPE Health Care Council is proud to represent 12,600 of these health workers in five health regions. The Service Employees International Union and the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union represent health care providers in the other health regions.

More than 14 months without a new agreement:

Our collective agreement with SAHO and the health regions expired on March 31, 2008. Instead of negotiating a fair agreement that recognizes the contribution of CUPE health care providers, SAHO is proposing a long list of concessions. That's unacceptable.

Why the double standard?

SAHO presented a significant wage offer to SUN members less than two months after their agreement expired last year.

But more than 14 months after CUPE's contract expired, SAHO still hasn't provided any wage offer to CUPE health care providers.

Essential services legislation – Bill 5

The SaskParty government passed legislation in May 2008 that restricts our ability to strike. Under the legislation, known as Bill 5, the health regions have deemed more than 75% of our members as "essential."

The government didn't apply the essential services legislation to SUN members last year, even though they had a strike vote. The government also hasn't taken any action against the health regions for failing to produce complete and accurate lists for the CUPE health care council.

Why is the government being so unfair?

Key messages from the Canadian Health Coalition and CUPE

- **CUPE health care providers are an important part of our public health care system. It's time we had a fair agreement – one that recognizes our contribution to health care.**
- Overwhelmingly, Canadians want public health care improved – not dismantled. That's one reason we want SAHO to negotiate an agreement with CUPE health care providers that addresses staff recruitment and retention issues.
- CUPE health care providers want to secure better collective agreement language that prevents employers' from contracting-out or privatizing health services like medical labs, cleaning or laundry. That's why our job security language is so important.
- Most Saskatchewan residents (53%) oppose the privatization of health support services, including almost four in ten (38%) who strongly oppose it. National polls also show the majority of Canadians oppose contracting-out cleaning services in health facilities.
- More for-profit, privatized health care means less public health care
 - *services will be cut, de-listed or reduced*
 - *doctors, nurses and health workers will be taken out of the public system,*
 - *waits will get longer,*
 - *affordable, quality care will be eroded, and*
 - *people will end up having to worry about whether they can pay for the care they need*
- Privatization leads to unequal, two-tier care that most Canadians can't afford. It's special treatment for the very wealthy that leaves the rest of us with dirty hospitals and declining care.
- Canadians know they are better off with public health care – it covers everyone, it ensures equal treatment, and no one has to worry about whether they can afford the care they need.

Q: What's the danger with privatized, for-profit health care?

A: You'll pay more, get less and be worse off.

Q: Why is public health care better?

A: Because everyone is covered, everyone is treated equally, and no one goes broke paying for their care.