

## COALITION BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #3



**SASKATOON** – The three Health Provider Unions attempted to meet with representatives of SAHO, the Regional Health Authorities and the Government on December 1 in Saskatoon. At 10:50 a.m. SAHO advised the Unions that they will *no longer meet face-to-face with the Union Committee*. SAHO was upset about our newspaper ad in the December 1 edition of both the Star-Phoenix and the Leader-Post. SAHO stated that they will be requesting the services of a *conciliator* and that the Unions would be receiving a copy of their letter of request. At this point, they left the room.

It would appear that SAHO has abandoned the bargaining process. SAHO alleges that the Unions lack integrity – because the Unions used a direct quote from the SAHO lead negotiator in our newspaper ad. When challenged with the truth – SAHO chose to walk away from the process.

We were not given an opportunity to respond to the SAHO allegations.

It appears that they have **NOT** considered the following in their decision to walk away:

- On September 22, when SAHO tabled their initial financial offer, they provided data on their website containing wage comparisons with other provinces in Western Canada. When we asked them about their assumptions and the details of this data, SAHO refused to share this info;
- Numerous inaccuracies about the data contained on this website have been identified by our members – to date, only two corrections were made;
- The SAHO website data is misleading - for example, the Manitoba wage rates listed are 2008 rates, and the other rates are 2009;
- We have received feedback from our members that there is a genuine distaste for the misleading content in the SAHO television, radio and print ads;
- On October 16, 2009, the Unions asked SAHO to stop bargaining with the public and the media, and confine their bargaining between the parties. They refused to stop their public campaign;
- Last week the SAHO newspaper ads set out: "What are the Union's priorities?" This is after more than 65 joint bargaining days were we were very clear on our priorities. Weren't they paying attention before?
- On November 27, 2009, SAHO had responded to our wage proposal by way of a media release. We told them that this was not an indicator of good faith bargaining when we learned of their reply to our proposal by reading the newspaper, rather than hearing it from them first;
- And guess what – their "improved wage offer" of .15% is 3 cents per hour for a \$20.00 per hour wage rate. SAHO's latest monetary proposal is even less than what we achieved in our last collective agreement.

**Regrettably, we find SAHO's proposals and their attitude to be disrespectful and an insult to our members. It does not appear that they have a desire to achieve a collective agreement with the Unions.**

Thank you for your continued support and interest in this process. Please watch for further updates.

In Solidarity,

On Behalf of the Coalition Bargaining Committee (SGEU, CUPE and SEIU-West)

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