

COALITION BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #5



REGINA — The three Health Provider Unions have continued our discussions with Doug Forseth, Executive Director of Labour Relations and Mediation Branch, since the middle of December. We would now like to report back to our memberships regarding decisions that have been made with a plan to move forward on the collective bargaining process.

On the 8th of January, it was agreed by all parties that we would voluntarily enter into conciliation. Conciliation is a process whereby a neutral third party (a conciliator) acts as a go-between to assist in clear communications between parties in dispute with a view to achieving resolution. Our goal in conciliation is to have a third party assist us in reaching a collective agreement. The parties that will be involved include: representatives from the three Health Provider Unions (SEIU-West, CUPE & SGEU), representatives from the Regional Health Authorities, representatives of SAHO (Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations), and representatives of government. Doug Forseth has agreed to act as conciliator.

This process will commence the week of January 18 in Regina. Mr. Forseth will establish ground rules to ensure that no bargaining through the media will take place during conciliation. This means that the parties will not be issuing statements to the media nor will the parties be placing any paid advertisements in print, radio or television. SAHO and the Health Provider Unions have committed to the conciliator not to provide updates or information to the media during this process.

During conciliation it is important for the parties to focus their attention on achieving a contract settlement. Therefore, the ground rules for conciliation will also limit the information that SAHO and the Health Provider Unions will circulate to their members and principals. No new information about bargaining will be posted on the parties' websites. We will continue to provide you with information about bargaining but this communication will be by email, telephone and on a face-to-face basis.

The Health Provider Unions have a collective desire to ensure that this process assists us in achieving our goal. We, therefore, request your patience and we wish to thank you for your continued support and interest in this process.

In Solidarity,

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