

COALITION BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #7



SASKATOON — On January 27, 2010, SAHO walked away from the conciliated bargaining process and presented the three Health Provider Unions with what they called their '*Final Offer*'. Since this time, the three Unions (SGEU, SEIU-West and CUPE) have been very active on many fronts.

In collaboration, each Union held meetings with their memberships in their respective health regions. Over 150 such meetings occurred in order to explain SAHO's '*Final Offer*' and to get membership feedback. Members of SGEU, SEIU-West and CUPE gave their respective unions the same message: reject SAHO's '*Final Offer*'.

For those of you who did not have the opportunity to attend one of these information meetings, please contact your local union and meeting materials will be shared with you. Please note that the items clarified at these meetings included – sharing the details of the many SAHO rollbacks contained in their '*Final Offer*' – highlighting that NO equity issues (such as shift/weekend premiums, professional fees and transportation allowance) were addressed by SAHO in their '*Final Offer*' – explaining the inadequacy of the market adjustments offered by SAHO in their '*Final Offer*' – clarifying the proposed general wage increase & term including retroactive pay issues in the SAHO '*Final Offer*'.

On March 5, the three Unions delivered a letter to SAHO informing them that the Unions had concluded our membership discussions and that the clear message received at our meetings was an absolute rejection of the SAHO '*Final Offer*'. We requested negotiations begin with representatives of the parties who are committed and able to conclude this process with a view to achieve a collective agreement that all parties can recommend to their respective memberships.

To date, we have received no reply from SAHO.

Does this mean that your Bargaining Committee has been silent? No! We have held rallies and information pickets over the last month all across the province including a Tri-Union rally which occurred on March 8, the opening day of the Legislature. This was followed up with questions being put to the Sask Party government by the NDP Opposition in regards to the continuing health care contract dispute. Other activities included a CUPE rally in front of the SAHO offices in Regina and a SEIU-West rally to the Premier's constituency office in Swift Current.

A number of further activities are being planned around the province to educate the public about our dispute and to continue to pressure the government, SAHO and the Health Regions. Information pickets are being organized at Sask Party MLA constituency offices each Friday in the coming weeks so that members can express their dissatisfaction to their MLA's about the

stalled contract talks. We are asking all of you to continue to participate in these efforts. Please write a letter or email, make one phone call to your MLA, the Minister of Health or the Premier. In addition, we welcome your continued effort to submit Letters to the Editor so as to share your thoughts with the general public about the importance of the work you do and your frustration with the lack of recognition you receive.

The three Unions have been running radio and print ads across the province. These will continue. Please visit your local union website to view and/or hear these ads. Further information will be posted on your Union bulletin boards and on the website.

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)
March 18, 2010