

CUPE Health Care Council Bargaining Update #19 – May 19, 2010



CUPE UPDATE ON COALITION BARGAINING

The Coalition of SGEU, CUPE & SEIU-West tabled an offer to settle all outstanding items with SAHO on May 11, 2010. We made significant moves from our previous position including proposals on the following:

- Staged in shift, weekend and stand by premiums so that by the end of this agreement we would reach parity with other health care team members;
- Professional fees would be reimbursed in full at the 2010 rates;
- A market adjustment for LPN's with retroactive pay to April 1, 2008 until the JJEMC completes their review;
- Third weekend overtime would apply to the 3rd weekend only, not subsequent weekends.

We firmly believe our proposal is fair and reasonable. We wanted SAHO to seriously consider our offer but on May 12th, less than 24 hours after receiving our offer to settle and in true SAHO form, they responded to us and to the media simultaneously. Their response was **no** and they continue to refuse to bargain an agreement. SAHO continues to spend your money to litter workplaces with propaganda and fill the airwaves with messages intended to pressure our members and garner public support for their paltry amended final offer.

The public opinion poll that was sponsored by the Coalition clearly indicates we have strong public support in our struggle to get a fair collective agreement. It also shows that the public knows SAHO and the government are responsible for dragging out this process, which has now gone beyond two years.

The Coalition took our message to the legislature on May 18 where we were joined by hundreds of people from all across the province. We called on the government to be responsible to the people of this province and address our concerns. Members have been diligent in attending rallies, pressuring the government to get serious, lobbying their local politicians and meeting with their health region boards. **Our message is being heard.** These efforts forced SAHO to amend their "*Final Offer*" and table a "*Final, Final Offer*".

Your actions have made an impact and your continued support is needed. We need to stay strong. We need to continue to stand united. Together we will achieve a fair collective agreement.

Your Health Care Council Bargaining Committee is planning membership meetings in the near future to give you full details of our offer to settle and want to get your feedback.

"PEOPLE POWER MUST BE VISIBLE"

In Solidarity,

Your CUPE Bargaining Team