

BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE

Communique #1
September 30, 2004

CUPE Health Workers Begin Contract Negotiations

The CUPE Health Care Council, which bargains on behalf of 12,000 health workers in five regions, began contract negotiations Tuesday, September 28th in Regina with the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO). The two sides have exchanged proposals and have been reviewing each other's package since bargaining began.

The proposals developed by CUPE are based largely on the suggestions from members through delegates to the CUPE Health Care Bargaining Conference and their local unions. The proposals focus on four priority areas:

- Respectful and fair treatment by employers
- No contracting out/ privatization of the public health care system
- Healthy workplaces
 - Improved workload language
 - Stronger protection against harassment and violence
 - Real solutions to recruitment and retention problems
- Improved family/caregiver leave

The CUPE Health Care Council represents health workers in acute care, long term care, community care and home care in Regina Qu'Appelle, Prince Albert Parkland, Sunrise, Sun Country, and Prairie North health regions. CUPE members are employed in a variety of positions including special care aides, dietary staff, clericals, licensed practical nurses, housekeeping, technicians and technologists, laundry, and maintenance.

The agreement between CUPE's Health Care Council and SAHO expired on March 31, 2004. The two sides will next meet in Saskatoon on October 12th, 13th and 14th. Both sides have confirmed bargaining dates until the end of December.