

CUPE Health Care Council Bargaining Update #20 – October 12, 2010

CUPE UPDATE ON COALITION BARGAINING

On September 23rd CUPE members voted to ratify the CUPE/SAHO memorandum of agreement reached on August 13, 2010 and since then your bargaining committee has been proofing the amendments to the new collective agreement.

We have now received notification from SAHO that the employers also concluded their ratification process on Friday, October 8, 2010.

According to the language in the memorandum of agreement the parties, CUPE and SAHO have thirty (30) days from the ratification of the agreement to sign the collective agreement which will be in effect April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2012. The CUPE Bargaining Committee aims to ensure that the new collective agreement is signed as soon as possible and, as the memorandum states, all articles will come in to effect the date of signing unless otherwise stated.

CUPE requested that retroactive wage increases be paid to employees as expeditiously possible, but no later than Christmas of 2010, and that the payment be made on a separate cheque. However we learned from SAHO's October 8th media release that retroactive payments will not be made to CUPE members until the New Year.

During our ratification meetings, your bargaining team received the message concisely from members, about the importance of the retro-pay being paid out quickly. Clearly your request has fallen on deaf ears.

Your bargaining team will continue to pressure both SAHO and the government of Saskatchewan about the importance of giving this request due attention.

It is realistic to expect that processing retroactive pay will take a number of weeks. That said, if CUPE members find that they are waiting an unacceptably long time to receive their retroactive pay, we recommend that they contact their MLA's, Susan Antosh, CEO of SAHO and the CEOs of the Health Regions to express their concern.

In Solidarity,

Your CUPE Bargaining Team