



November 9, 2005

BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #21

The bargaining committee met with SAHO and the employers in Regina on November 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2005.

On the first day SAHO tabled a monetary proposal package of 2-2-2 plus an additional 1% funding for our Extended Health and Enhanced Dental Plans. When pressed, SAHO admitted this is not a final offer. Although this offer is an improvement on their initial 0-1-1 it is still woefully inadequate to meet the needs of our members, particularly with all the common table equity issues outstanding. The new proposal still falls well below the settlements achieved by SUN and HSAS and other public sector unions.

We were also told that any additional monetary improvements related to equity or other issues will have to be deducted from the above monetary offer. **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!**

SAHO simultaneously delivered this same monetary package to our coalition partners at the SEIU and SGEU tables. After discussion with our partners we remain confident in the strength of our coalition and both SGEU and CUPE will be proceeding with our strike votes.

The coalition works! The 81% SEIU strike vote and the threat of the upcoming strike votes of CUPE and SGEU members have caused the government and SAHO to improve their initial monetary offer.

We have the strength of our coalition with SEIU and SGEU – together we are over 25,000 strong. United as we are and with strong strike mandates we will be in the best position for success at the common bargaining table. All three Unions **must** have a strong strike mandate before we get there. It is critical that you give your bargaining committee the support they need to achieve the fairness you deserve.

We continue to negotiate non-monetary priority issues such as workload, a harassment-free workplace, etc. To achieve an agreement on equity issues such as vacation entitlements, family leave, standby, weekend/premium pay, professional fee reimbursement, and protection against privatization and contracting out we need your support!

Vote “YES” on strike vote day!

Our next bargaining dates are November 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 2005 in Saskatoon.