

BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE

Communique #4
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In its recent newsletter, SAHO reported that “discussions [with CUPE] continue to be productive and an agreement was reached on a number of items.”

SAHO’s comments make us wonder if we are at the same bargaining table. After 15 days of bargaining, there has been little progress from our perspective. Agreements made to date are mostly limited to minor housekeeping improvements: ie. changing Health District to Regional Health Authority.

SAHO has also shown themselves unwilling to enter into basic philosophical discussions about maintaining **public** delivery of our health care system – something that this committee finds deeply disturbing. Despite government assurances about the importance of maintaining the public delivery of health care services, and an election won on that basis, SAHO has yet to provide any protection against contracting out and privatization.

We know that CUPE members live and spend in their communities. We know that everyone benefits when stable, unionized jobs pay decent wages. Protecting good jobs supports families and strengthens our local economies. Protection against contracting out and privatization is a major priority. The bargaining committee remains committed to defending our members and the communities they serve.

There are three more days of bargaining before the end of December.

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