

Bargaining Communiqué #6
January 7, 2005

We were back at the table with SAHO on January 4, 5 & 6. We started with completion of our presentation on health and safety, workload and psychological harassment. The presentation clearly established the cost savings that could be realized through the reduction of injury and disease in the workplace. We are hopeful that SAHO will see that the benefit of the proposed proactive initiatives will result in positive changes in the workplace.

We then proceeded to do a complete review with SAHO of the status of negotiations. During this review we felt some optimism regarding the potential for progress over the next two days. Sadly, we regret to report that this optimism was premature. At the end of three days virtually no progress has been made.

Since our last Communiqué we have received letters from Joanne Crofford, Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Public Sector Compensation, and Mike Shaw, Co-Chair of the Health Labour Relations Council regarding Extended Health and Enhanced Dental Benefit Plan and the interim funding that was redirected from the Career Adjustment Assistance Fund. The interim funding will last until the end of March, however, SAHO has demanded that we have a resolution six weeks prior to the March 31, 2005 deadline. Meeting dates have been proposed for mid January and dates will be finalized shortly. Failing successful conclusion of extended health negotiations by February 15, SAHO intends to unilaterally slash your benefits.

CUPE will be meeting at the end of this week with the other health provider unions to discuss benefits and other common issues.

Next meeting dates are January 18, 19, and 20 in Saskatoon.

