

COALITION BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #1



SASKATOON – The three Health Provider Unions met with representatives of SAHO, the Regional Health Authorities and the Government on November 25 in Saskatoon.

At the outset, the Unions indicated that we have heard the SAHO radio ads and we have read the SAHO ads in the newspaper suggesting they would like to get this process moving along. We asked what they had to offer us – and they admitted that they had ***nothing*** new to offer. ***This is a complete contradiction to their message being delivered to the public.***

The Unions asked whether SAHO was willing to proceed by bargaining individual items with each of the Unions and SAHO indicated that this was ***not*** their preference.

When asked how they wanted to proceed, SAHO indicated that they wanted the Unions to table a comprehensive package. The Unions noted that SAHO has ***not*** yet tabled a comprehensive package. SAHO has ***not*** proposed ***any improvements*** on the parity items. These are ***significant*** issues to our members and include: shift/weekend premiums, professional fees, transportation allowance, among other items.

Since SAHO would not respond to the Tri-Union proposal dated October 16, the Health Provider Unions subsequently tabled an initial monetary proposal which includes the following general wage increases over a three year term: 5% effective April 1, 2008 and 5% effective April 1, 2009 and 5% effective April 1, 2010 for all employees. The term of the collective agreement proposed is from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011. Please note that our initial monetary proposal was presented in ***addition*** to our October 16 Tri-Union proposal, which includes parity issues, market adjustments and retention/recruitment initiatives among other items.

The Unions have requested data from SAHO so as to enable us to make a further proposal in respect to market adjustments. They refused to share their research data – therefore we are required to do our own.

SAHO continues to indicate that they will not provide us with the mandate information.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in this process. Please watch for further updates.

In Solidarity,

On Behalf of the Coalition Bargaining Committee (SGEU, CUPE and SEIU-West)

