

SAHO's actions undermine health-care staff

A lot has been published lately from The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) about the competitive wage/contract being offered to the provider unions CUPE, SEIU & SGEU in health care. In some papers SAHO has deemed some jobs being worth 22% more, however SAHO forgets to mention that this would go to employees in hard to recruit positions and as soon as they are no longer deemed by the gov't/SAHO as hard to recruit then that 22% can be taken back. In another paper I see that provider union nurses (LPN's) should be getting 19% more. This number I believe comes through the Joint Job Evaluation Plan (JJE plan); although the members of this committee say they have not evaluated the LPN job yet. SAHO says they will expedite this for LPN's in exchange for control of the Joint Job Evaluation Plan. Does this mean SAHO has been stalling evaluation of the LPN job? If the 19% is due LPNs through the JJE plan then it has no business being brought up in bargaining. Why is the Government/SAHO trying to bribe us with this when we bargained the JJE plan already? I hope everyone out there is able to see clearly now, how SAHO is able to manipulate what we bargained already and also see how important it is to keep the JJE plan as joint. The last time my job as an LPN was evaluated was in the mid 70s shortly after I started working in health care. I know everyone out there has seen the many changes in job duties for everyone in health care. I hope we all know that we must have a voice in job evaluations now and into the future.

Also a notice to my fellow provider union recipients of disability payments through SAHO. Apparently SAHO believes that if we become disabled and unable to work they will keep us on a disability /re-employment list for three years. After three years if the prognosis for us is to be still unable to return to work and we're still alive we will then be terminated. I wonder how competitive that will make us.

Did I mention that I've worked in health care in Saskatchewan since 1972? Are all health care unions now being asked to sacrifice their old and disabled or is this just another way for SAHO to show their respect for people in the provider unions? Whose idea is this?

This is apparently a competitive offer and is tied to acceptance of concessions. I can only hope the working members in the provider unions will think more kindly of their old and /or disabled and not trade us away for a measly insulting offer of 9% in 4 years.

Rose Isbister