

## **Marilyn Pelkey: SAHO's take aways will affect patient care**

February 27, 2010

I have lived and worked in the community of Grenfell since October 2001. Most people in the community know me through my involvement with the Relay for Life Event which I brought to Grenfell just a few short years ago. However at this time I am writing about SAHO's final offer.

I have been a health care worker for over 20 years and I am a proud CUPE member. SAHO would like you to believe that CUPE is focused in on the monetary package; this is not the case even though we do find the offer insulting. I feel you should be made aware of all the take aways that are in their final offer.

- Loss of seniority rights: My 20 years of service will mean nothing.
- Multi site positions where the employer can move us around like chess pieces on a board.
- Split shifts in home care which would take these workers back to the dark ages.

The health region's "patients' first policy" will go right out the window and there will be no continuity of care.

SAHO has made me feel that what I do as a caregiver is of no importance and that my family life doesn't matter.

RQHR has spoken of recruitment and retention; who will take my place when I retire? How and where will we find new special care aids, housekeepers, lab techs, dietary staff, office assistants, LPN's, etc. with SAHO's final offer? Who will want to work in a position where from one day to the next you don't know where you'll be, where your years of service means nothing!

We are a valuable part of the Health Care Team. Each and every one of us has an important role to play. Help us send a message to this government to get SAHO back to the table to bargain a fair and equitable agreement.

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