

Sinda Cathcart: SAHO and government's actions unbelievable

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As a health care provider for nearly 30 years, I have extensive experience providing care to seniors in Regina.

As a member of CUPE's health care provider negotiating committee, I also have experienced first-hand SAHO and the government's disrespectful treatment of health care providers at the bargaining table. It's not an experience I would want to repeat.

CUPE health care providers working in Regina Qu'Appelle health region feel the denigration that is being levied against them by SAHO and the government. They are sick of it.

With new essential services legislation in their back pockets, SAHO and the Wall government are behaving like a bully in a playground.

Does the public know, for example, that since December 1 SAHO's bargaining team has refused to meet face-to-face with CUPE and the other two provider unions? These people are paid by taxpayers to bargain collective agreements. Why hasn't the government instructed them to do their jobs?

The government and SAHO have the audacity to waste well over a million dollars of taxpayers' money on its misleading ad campaign – while Premier Wall talks about wanting to find cost savings in health care. Unbelievable.

SAHO and the government's bad behaviour have resulted in mounting frustrations and a serious decline in morale among frontline workers. I've not seen anything like it in 30 years. Health providers want action on workload concerns. How much longer will they – and the people they care for – have to wait?

When health facilities work short staffed continually, the provision of care becomes very thin. Quality suffers.

Just maybe, it's time that taxpayers call the bullies and big spenders to account for their actions.

Sincerely,

Sinda Cathcart, President CUPE 3967, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region