



For Immediate Release:

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Seventeen months after contracts' expired:

SAHO says it will be ready to make an "initial" wage offer – in another month!

Saskatchewan: The 25,000 health care providers represented by three health care unions in the province will finally see an "initial" wage offer from SAHO next month, 17 months after their collective agreements expired.

SAHO announced yesterday it will present a monetary package at a common bargaining table with the three unions on September 15.

"After months of delays, we are relieved that SAHO finally is ready to disclose its monetary offer to our members," says Barbara Cape, President of SEIUWEST. "But we are disappointed that in typical SAHO fashion, it wants to stall another month before giving us a monetary package – one that will show just how much SAHO and the SaskParty government value our members."

The three health care provider unions want SAHO to table the monetary offer on September 1, when they meet at a common table in Regina.

"This process has taken far too long," says Bonnie Erickson, Negotiating Committee Chair for the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union. "We feel as if SAHO is holding our collective agreement hostage. We can only hope that after so many delays, SAHO makes a reasonable wage offer – one that recognizes the contribution of our members to the health care system."

Gordon Campbell, President of the CUPE Health Care Council, says SAHO's stalling tactics continue to frustrate contract negotiations. Although CUPE bargained throughout the summer in an effort to resolve the outstanding issues, the employer still has a long list of concessions on the table.

The CUPE Health Care Council, SEIUWEST and SGEU represent over 25,000 health care providers, including special care aides, licensed practical nurses, food services workers, laundry, housekeeping and activity personnel, maintenance, administrative, clerical, therapeutic and recreational workers, and medical technologists and technicians.

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