

C U P E S A S K A T C H E W A N  
HEALTH CARE COUNCIL

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**CUPE Health Care Council Bargaining Update #17 – October 16/09**

The week of October 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> marked your bargaining committee's first joint session with our coalition partners, SGEU (Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union) and SEIU-West (Saskatchewan Employees International Union) and SAHO.

Our provider union coalition wasted no time in communicating our outright rejection of SAHO's 'below the cost of living' initial offer tabled September 22<sup>nd</sup>. SAHO has maintained its position of less than 10 percent over 4 years, which is tied to our acceptance of major take-aways. SAHO refuses to discuss other monetary issues in our package without our agreement on take-aways. In other words, SAHO is insisting that we sell the house, but they won't tell us the purchase price.

We provided SAHO with our coalition proposal document which includes all bargaining proposals that are common to the three provider unions. SAHO flatly rejected this package on Friday and tabled a revised "all or nothing" package that made very minor progress by expanding the classifications for market adjustments. They have not gone nearly far enough to address recruitment and retention. Their proposal excludes many jobs, including related jobs such as Tech IIs, working supervisors and supervisors.

Next week, CUPE members can look for a further update from the CUPE Health Care Bargaining Committee explaining the outstanding issues and setting the record straight on much of the misinformation circulated by SAHO about negotiations. In addition to these efforts, the CUPE Health Care Council's website now has a link to video profiling individual CUPE health care workers responding to the wage offer from SAHO and the Saskatchewan Party government. You can view this video and other updates about bargaining at [www.cupesaskhcc.ca](http://www.cupesaskhcc.ca).

On Wednesday of this week, we held an information picket line outside of SAHO's offices in Regina to protest the disrespect we are being shown as health care providers. The information picket line was certainly a warm up to the upcoming provider union rally at the Legislature in Regina, set for October 26<sup>th</sup>. We strongly encourage everyone to attend if you are able and to bring your friends, family and co-workers. A strong message must be sent to the government of this province!!

Like the health regions and their "four-pillar" approach to delivery of healthcare, the provider unions also have four pillars that will ensure the continuance of quality patient services. They are:

- ~ A reasonable wage increase
- ~ Parity with other healthcare providers (shift differential, weekend premiums, professional fees, etc.)
- ~ Fair market adjustments for ALL hard to recruit classifications
- ~ NO concessions

In closing, we encourage you to remain hopeful Sisters and Brothers. Your bargaining committee is working in solidarity with our coalition partners. Please stand strong with us!!

Our next bargaining dates are set for October 27 - 30, 2009.

Stay strong and stay tuned...

**In Solidarity,**

**Your CUPE Health Care Bargaining Committee**

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