



## BARGAINING COMMUNIQUE #19

October 14, 2005

The Bargaining Committee met with SAHO and employer representatives on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> in Regina. The Bargaining Committee tabled counter proposals on the Occupational Health and Safety and Harassment articles – areas that have been identified by the membership as a priority - in having respectful and healthy workplaces.

The Bargaining Committee continues to be frustrated with the lack of interest by the Employer regarding proposals that will address removing known carcinogens from the workplace and ensure the safety of our members. Their message continues to be, if there is a cost involved, the safety of the worker is secondary to their bottom line.

Although some progress has been made in improvements to the language surrounding the procedure around harassment complaints, SAHO has taken the position that they will not consider the inclusion of psychological harassment in the definition unless there is a statement that “psychological harassment” is “not to be confused with normal exercise of management rights”. Our committee is quite concerned with this position and feels that it will provide “immunity” to managers who threaten, bully or intimidate our members and lessen the effect of any harassment grievance.

On Friday, October 14, the CUPE Health Care Bargaining Committee hosted a rally in support of the Health Provider Bargaining Coalition in front of the T.C. Douglas Building in Regina. SEIU and SGEU are having similar difficulties in the progress of their negotiations and their attendance and participation was greatly appreciated. They sent a clear message that both unions stand in strong support of our issues, and in solidarity with our health care coalition. The CUPE Bargaining Committee members will be starting facility tours next week to update our members on the progress, or lack thereof, of negotiations. We will be asking for your support to demand and get a fair and equitable collective agreement. SEIU and SGEU will be out talking to their members as well and asking for their support for any future action. We hope that you watch for notices and that you will attend a meeting in your area.

The next bargaining session will take place Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon.

**OCT 31 – NOV 4 is HEALTH PROVIDER WEEK!**

**For more information visit the CUPE Health Council website at: [www.cupesaskhec.ca](http://www.cupesaskhec.ca)**

hw:cope491

