



October 27, 2005

## Bargaining Communiqué #20

The Bargaining Committee met with SAHO and employer representatives on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon. The parties discussed outstanding proposals that are specifically CUPE issues and that need to be addressed before negotiations begin at the coalition table with SEIU and SGEU, such as consistent application of the vacation language across the province, relief and workload language, and respectful and healthy workplaces.

The SAHO bargaining committee has now expressed their reluctance to negotiate items that may pose any cost to the employer before negotiations begin at the coalition table when the major monetary issues will be discussed. When CUPE questioned this position, the employer maintained that they wish to remain inside the mandate - although they claim that they do not know what that current mandate is. SAHO spent most of October 26<sup>th</sup> developing a response to all outstanding CUPE issues. When we received their package, almost all their responses stated "No change to SAHO's proposal". While these actions continue to frustrate the efforts being made to negotiate a fair collective agreement for our members, your bargaining committee will continue to meet with SAHO in an effort to resolve your priority issues.

Facility meetings have begun in all Regional Health Authorities to update members on the progress of bargaining and discuss possible strike action. We would like to extend a thank you to members who have taken the time out of their busy lives to attend these meetings to date, and would like to encourage all members to attend future scheduled meetings. Strike votes are being organized for the period of Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> across the province in CUPE jurisdictions, with results being released no later than Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> to our members. SGEU and SEIU are also in the process of meeting with their members and conducting strike votes. Although there are no plans to strike at this time, it is hoped that a strong strike mandate on behalf of all three unions and 25,000 members will be enough to encourage SAHO to take our negotiations seriously.

A strong strike mandate will show SAHO that our members do not wish to accept regressive proposals. A strong strike mandate will show SAHO that our members will not accept crushing workloads, inadequate staffing affecting patient care, and losing their jobs to contracting out and privatization. A strong strike mandate will show SAHO that our members care about the public health care system and will not stand by while our employers focus on the bottom line.

The next bargaining session will take place November 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Regina.

**OCT 31 – NOV 4 is HEALTH PROVIDER WEEK! Please watch and listen for our ads!**

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

