

April 29, 2004

Communique #5

Bargaining Committee Continues Preparations

The Bargaining Committee of the CUPE Health Care Council met April 5 to 8 to continue their preparation of the proposal package. This work is nearly complete and meetings to review and finalize the package are set for May 27. Information meetings to review the bargaining proposals with the CUPE membership will occur in the fall. We are in discussions with SAHO to confirm dates to exchange proposals and commence negotiations in late September.

The decision to commence bargaining in September was prompted by two main factors:

- We wanted to confirm the implementation of the Joint Job Evaluation and ensure that the dispute resolution tribunal had determined all outstanding JJE issues, so that job evaluation would not monopolize the discussion at the bargaining table.
- The provincial government, in its 2004-05 budget, announced that the regional health authorities would have to control costs, most probably by reducing in the area of publicly delivered long-term care. We want to know the extent of the attacks on public health care before we are in negotiations.

Beginning in May, in response to potential closures, CUPE is launching a provincial campaign to protect and expand publicly delivered long-term care and home care. This campaign will work in concert with our own bargaining campaign, which will be presented to the delegates at the CUPE Health Care Council Annual Conference on May 19-21.

For more information, please contact the CUPE Health Care Council at 546-2185.