



December 15, 2005

The provider union coalition - SEIU, CUPE and SGEU – have been meeting with SAHO and the Employers in Saskatoon since Monday, December 12th.

In November, we were encouraged by senior government representatives to “get a deal” before Christmas and we have all worked very hard to do that.

On Monday we prepared a comprehensive coalition proposal that set out the equity issues facing health care providers with the intention of achieving some meaningful resolution. We presented our proposal to SAHO and the Employers Monday evening. SAHO’s response the next morning was that we had to identify our priority issues. The coalition bargaining committee spent a difficult day reducing and refining our package, which we then presented to SAHO and the Employers.

Late Wednesday evening, we received SAHO’s counter proposal. That document was a slap in the face to every health care worker belonging to SGEU, CUPE and SEIU. The equity issues, workload and staffing problems, and job security concerns we raised were not addressed. We haven’t even been offered the industry standard!

SAHO, the Employers and government do not seem to care about respect; they do not seem to care about equity; they do not seem to care about the level of frustration our 25,000 health care members are feeling. Nor did they address the significant recruitment and retention issues that exist within the provider unions. They did not deny that these inequities exist; they simply refused to address them in any meaningful way, other than to talk about flexibility. To them, flexibility means we should ask for less. We should be satisfied with less than what the other health care unions have accepted. They even proposed that we could “buy” equity items out of your wage mandate.

We call for equity – they say no. Once again, we need you to provide your support.

Please contact the Premier Lorne Calvert @ (306) 651-1211 (Constituency) or (306) 787-9433 (Leg); e-mail: premier@gov.sk.ca

Hon. John Nilson, Minister of Health @ (306) 751-7740 (Constituency) or (306) 787-7345 (Leg); e-mail: minister@health.gov.sk.ca

Hon. Deb Higgins, Minister of Labour @ (306) 694-1001 (Constituency) or fax (306) 691-0486 or 787-1117 (Leg); email @dhiggins@mla.legassembly.sk.ca

Hon. Joanne Crofford, Chair, Committee on Public Sector Compensation @ (306) 790-1910 (Constituency) or fax 757-9822 or (306) 787-3661 (Leg); email crofford@mla.legassembly.sk.ca

Or contact your Employers and Board members of your Health Regions and let them know that you deserve:

EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND RESPECT!