

CUPE COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

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Confusion reigns

Government/ SAHO postpone wage offer – again

Regina: The Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and the SaskParty government need to “get on the same page” at the bargaining table to avoid further mix-ups in contract negotiations, says the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Last Wednesday, SAHO announced it would finally table its monetary offer to the three unions representing 25,000 health care providers in the province on September 15. But yesterday – just a week later - SAHO announced the government wants it to postpone the offer until after the by-elections.

It’s the third time SAHO has changed the date to present its initial wage offer.

“It’s unbelievable that after so many months, there is still so much confusion on the employer’s side of the table,” says Gordon Campbell, President of the CUPE Health Care Council. “For the sake of our members, SAHO and the SaskParty government need to get on the same page and make contract negotiations a priority,” Campbell says.

The 12,600 health care providers represented by CUPE have been without a new collective agreement for 17 months.

Although CUPE commenced contract negotiations with SAHO a year ago, the employer still has not presented any monetary offer at the table. In contrast, the government presented a generous wage offer to SUN members less than two months after their contract expired.

“It shows tremendous disrespect to our members,” says Campbell. “And after 17 months, further delays are inexcusable.”

The CUPE Health Care Council represents 12,600 health care providers in five health regions. They include special care aides, licensed practical nurses, food services workers, laundry, housekeeping and activity personnel, maintenance, administrative, clerical, therapeutic and recreational workers, and medical technologists and technicians.

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Contact: Gordon Campbell 539-0661