

May 30, 2017

Health Provider Bargaining Unit**Challenging round of bargaining gets underway**

Bargaining for a new collective agreement has begun. On May 25, 2017, your Health Provider Negotiating Committee, along with our union partners, CUPE and SEIU-West, met with the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and Employer negotiation team to initiate the bargaining process.

Provincial government wants 3.5 per cent cut

At the bargaining session, SAHO and the Employer presented us with a proposal package specific to SGEU, but which also included proposals common to all the unions. The proposals reflect the provincial government's directive to reduce public sector workers' compensation by 3.5 per cent for 2017-2018, followed by three years of no monetary increases. To achieve this, SAHO and the Employer are proposing a range of monetary concessions which would erode the gains we have made in past rounds of bargaining.

SGEU presented SAHO and the Employer with our proposal package, which features contract changes and improvements identified as priorities by SGEU members in the lead up to bargaining last fall.

Next bargaining dates

We are meeting with SAHO and the Employer to continue bargaining May 30 – 31, and June 1. The three unions are scheduled to meet separately with their respective SAHO and Employer committees, but we will meet together to discuss common issues as needed.

Your support is crucial

There is little doubt this will be one of the most difficult bargaining sessions we have encountered. We will need the support of our members to hold off the government's plan to cut wages and benefits, and to reach a fair and reasonable collective agreement that respects the important work of our health providers, and invests in a strong and vibrant health care system for Saskatchewan families and communities.

Stay connected

Watch for upcoming member activities you can participate in to show support for your negotiating committee. We will be keeping you informed of developments as we move further into the bargaining process.

See the timeline below for an overview of significant events leading up to this round of bargaining. In solidarity,

1011 Devonshire Drive North
Regina, SK S4X 2X4
(p) 522.8571
1.800.667.5221
(f) 352.1969

1114-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S5
(p) 652.1811
1.800.667.9791
(f) 664.7134

33-11th Street West
Prince Albert, SK S6V 3A8
(p) 764.5201
1.800.667.9355
(f) 763.4763

www.sgeu.org

Your SGEU Health Provider Negotiating Committee:

Bonnie Erickson, Health Provider Chairperson
Kim Nordmarken, Vice Chair
Wendy McPhail
Ryan Favel
Cynthia Roney
Danny Hind SGEU LRO

What's happening in health care: A timeline

December, 2016 — SGEU, CUPE, and SEIU begin regular meetings to coordinate our approach to the upcoming collective bargaining round.

January 13 and 24, 2017 — The three unions meet with SAHO and the Employer to discuss logistical issues for the upcoming bargaining round, in light of government's decision to merge the 12 health regions into a single Saskatchewan Health Authority.

January 27, 2017 — SAHO serves SGEU, SEIU, and CUPE with notice to bargain.

March 7, 2017 — The three unions have a preliminary meeting with SAHO to lay the groundwork for bargaining. Partway into this meeting, the provincial government announces its intention to reduce compensation costs for public sector workers, including health workers, by 3.5 per cent.

March 28, 2017 — The provincial government introduces Bill 5, *The Provincial Health Authority Act*, and Bill 54, *The Provincial Health Authority Consequential Amendment Act*.

April 12, 2017 – SGEU, CUPE, and SEIU meet with the Ministry of Health and SAHO to hold a discussion on our wish to form a bargaining association. This arrangement would maintain existing union representation, by having the three unions bargain jointly a single collective agreement with the provincial health authority.

May 3, 2017 — The three unions meet again with SAHO to set dates and finalize the logistics for the upcoming round of bargaining. SAHO gives verbal, but not written, confirmation that they are mandated to impose a 3.5% compensation cut.

May 8 and 9, 2017 — The coalition of unions meets to discuss upcoming bargaining and their joint proposals package.

May 23 and 24, 2017- The three unions meet, with their entire bargaining committees present, to review the coalition proposal package prior to the May 25 meeting with the SAHO bargaining committee.

May 25, 2017 — The unions and SAHO exchange proposal packages. SAHO and the Employers' proposal package contain concessions totalling 4.25 per cent. SAHO calls their package a "menu of options" and offers the unions a chance to choose the concessions they prefer in order to meet the -3.5 per cent government mandate.

May 30 and 31, 2017 – SGEU meets with SAHO to continue bargaining.

June and July, 2017 – The coalition unions have offered dates for bargaining throughout June and July. SAHO's goal is to reach an agreement by the end of June, but SGEU will remain at the table as long as it takes to negotiate a fair deal.