

## Health Provider Bargaining Unit

January 2009

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The Health Provider Negotiating Committee began meeting with the employer last fall to bargain a new collective agreement. We met with the SAHO negotiating team on October 28-30, 2008 at which time we exchanged proposals packages. Both parties asked for clarification of several articles. We then returned to the table on November 12 - 14 and November 25 - 27. The December negotiating dates were cancelled due to illness. Progress has been very slow but we are at the initial stages. Check out the SGEU website for updates at <http://www.sgeu.org/members/documents/sectors/>. From the home page at [www.sgeu.org](http://www.sgeu.org), click on For Members (top right), Sectors (under Your Union along left-hand bar).

Negotiating dates have been set for the first four months in 2009: January 20 - 22; March 17 - 19, March 31 - April 2 and April 28 - 30.

The first priority on the table is to deal with requirements under the new essential services legislation. The employer, SAHO and SGEU have agreed to meet with each individual health region to discuss essential service requirements. We encourage you to read the information about the essential services legislation attached to this bargaining update.

The Tri-Union Coalition between CUPE, SEIU and SGEU, remains in place with agreement that the major monetary package will be negotiated jointly with SAHO. The Negotiating Committee is working closely with the communications staff at SGEU to coordinate a public relations campaign for our bargaining unit and the coalition. The goal of the campaign is to build public support for improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions for SGEU health service providers. We will use posters, pamphlets, newspaper ads and billboards to portray the importance of the work performed by health care workers, and the direct impact on the well-being of Saskatchewan families.

Please feel free to contact members of the Negotiating Committee with your questions or comments. Danny Hind, Vice Chair of the Negotiating Committee, will be on leave from the committee for a 7 week period beginning January 12 while he fills in as an Agreement Administration Advisor in Prince Albert .

In solidarity

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